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MARTIN'S BAY SETTLEMENT

WEST COAST OF OTAGO.

Narrative of a Voyage from Dunedin to Martin's Bay, and of a Return Journey Overland,

WITH MAPS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE LAND REGULATIONS.

BY R. P. WHITWORTH,

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE "OTAGO DAILY TIMES"

Dunedin:

PRINTED AT THE "OTAGO DAILY TIMES" OFFICE, PRINCES

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PREFACE.

THE Provincial Government of Otago, having determined to lay the foundation of a new Settlement at Martin's Bay, despatched a Survey party by the steamer Charles Edward for the purpose of laying out the township and surveying the surrounding country. The steamer sailed from Port Chalmers on the 21st of February last. I joined the expedition as the special correspondent of the Otago Daily Times, my instructions being to inspect the country, its character and capabilities as a field for settlement, so that I might give a faithful and unbiassed description of it. This, to the best of my ability, I have endeavoured to do in the following pages, carefully avoiding making any statement of which I did not see, for myself, the foundation in fact. Wherever I have ventured an opinion, it has not been without due and careful deliberation; and it is given, not as an absolute statement, but as the result of my judgment, based on surrounding circumstances, and, I may be permitted to say, some little experience.

To intending settlers, and others who may prefer the overland journey to a voyage by sea, I would recommend a careful perusal of the instructions for finding and keeping the track, and a close inspection of the maps, as much time and trouble may be saved by that means.

For any faults or shortcomings which may be observable in the work, I may perhaps be permitted to plead the impediments to taking copious notes in such a wild, unknown, and rugged country as that which I had to traverse.

R. P. WHITWORTH.

Dunedin, April 18th, 1870.

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THE MARTIN'S BAY SETTLEMENT.

PORT CHALMERS TO THE BLUFF.

The p.s. Charles Edward left her moorings at Port Chalmers on Monday, the 21st February, at 3 p.m., bound for the new settlement at Martin's Bay, on the west coast of Otago. She had on board the Government survey party, consisting of Mr S. Thomson and Mr J. Strachan, surveyors; Mr James M'Kenzie, assistant cadet surveyor; Martin, carpenter; Welsh and M'Dougall, assistant chainmen; and Robertson, cook. She also took Captain Thomson, Harbour Master; Mr Page, a gentleman connected with the press at Oamaru, your reporter, two prospectors, and a German settler named Kleber. Amongst other survey material was the wooden house, 20ft. x 12ft., constructed in Dunedin and made ready for fitting together on arrival, to be used as a survey house, and for other purposes connected with the proceedings of the survey party. The Charles Edward steamed to the Heads, where, in consequence of encountering a strong wind blowing from the S.E., we dropped anchor, and remained inside until 1 a.m. on the 22nd, at which time we got up steam and started for the Bluff. On our getting outside, the wind, which was evidently a local one, died away, and the sea became calm. Off the Nuggets light, which is perched on a remarkable triangular shaft of rock, and which marks the south head of the entrance to Molyneux Harbour, a breeze sprang up from the S.W., and continued until we reached Bluff Harbour at 9 p.m. During the night a gale from the W., which had been blowing intermittently for 10 days, came on again, and rendered it impossible for us to go out. We consequently lay at the wharf until Thursday night, the 24th, at 8.30, when the wind having abated considerably, we cast off our moorings, and bade adieu to our inhospitable harbour of refuge.

THE BLUFF TO MARTIN'S BAY.

We passed the Solander at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, the 26th, and at 8 o'clock were abreast of the mouth of Big River, a stream so called apparently because it is a little one. This river enters the sea down a narrow precipitous gorge, the hills on each side being jagged, and covered with low scrub of sombre hue and dismal appearance. At 10 a.m. we passed Albion Head, with its long reef of low rocks, which form the point where the coast begins to trend to the north; and Preservation Inlet at 11. At this place was obtained the first view of the snow-capped ranges to the north, and at 11.45 passed inside, and within a hundred yards of a remarkable pentangular rock, rising in steps from the sea, and quite flat on the top. This rock lies about a mile and a half from the shore, and stands about five yards out of the water, being perhaps ten yards in diameter. Its N. and E. sides are fringed with long ribbons of kelp up to high water mark. It appears to rise perpendicularly from the bed of the sea, and is an admirable site for a lighthouse, for which purpose it will, in all probability, be used, when the numerous fine coves and sounds on this part of the coast become the resort of the shipping they are so well calculated to shelter we entered Dusky Sound b entrance, it having been d pass through the Sound, and advantage of smooth wate keeping out to sea, where a

wind was blowing, and a heavy opposing sea running. This was a treat of the highest order, and one which was greatly enjoyed by every person on board. The Sound opens by a magnificent and extensive roadstead to the S.W., and is studded with numberless islands, large and small, among whose solitudes the white man has never yet penetrated, but whose intricate passages will, in future years, when the West Coast of Otago is dotted with flourishing townships and smiling homesteads, be the haunt of the yachtsman and the sportsman. The Sound has two entrances, the northern one being about 18 miles distant from that to the south, and there is a fine, clear, deep water passage leading from one to the other. The shores of the passage, as well as those of the islands and the numerous coves, are densely wooded with birch, rata, grasstree, and ferns, to the water's edge, and are very lofty, and nearly precipitous. Many of them are exceedingly fantastic in form, being peaked, serrated, and dome-like in succession, the most prominent peaks being Mounts Duncan and Macandrew. The tops of the highest peaks are bare, and show a grey, and apparently indurated sandstone rock. Falling from the steep sides of the ranges are numerous streams, some of which shoot over shelves and ledges of rock in picturesque cascades. The Sound is said to abound with fish, and seals are occasionally seen on the rocky points of the islands. There are also plenty of pigeons and aquatic birds to be seen. Nearing the north entrance is a lofty dome-shaped overhanging rock, where there is a remarkable echo to be heard, and further along, on the north side, is a beautiful double waterfall about 60ft. in height. At this end of the Sound are several spots where a landing might be easily effected, and whence the adjacent ranges might be scaled. The passage through the Sound was a most enjoyable one, and well repaid us for the annoyance we had experienced by our detention at the Bluff. The scenery was of the most magnificent kind, the day fine, and the sky unflecked by a single cloud. At 8 o'clock on Saturday morning we were opposite Milford Sound, but, owing to the low-lying clouds, the magnificent Mitre and Pembroke Peaks, 7000ft. in height, which mark the south and north side of the entrance, could only be faintly distinguished.

MARTIN'S BAY.

At 10 o'clock we arrived opposite Martin's Bay, which from the sea looks like a wide open gorge in the hills, having a long low lying sandspit, covered with bushes, running across it from the south head to the mouth of the river, which is in the bight of the north head. The bay itself is a fine roomy open roadstead, about four miles in width from head to head, and has good anchorage with five fathoms under the north head. The whole length of the beach, except the narrow portion opposite the mouth of the river, has a heavy break, the surf rising to a great height, even in the finest weather. The entrance to the river (the Hollyford) is, however, comparatively smooth, and the navigation, with care, and in moderately fine weather, quite safe. The day of our arrival was beautifully fine, and after coming to an anchor about a mile from the beach, the Harbour Master, Captain Thomson, went ashore in the survey party's boat, in order to ascertain the depth of water along the line of entrance. Leaving the steamer, he made straight for a large brown sandstone rock under the north head, and nearly marking the entrance to the river. Here, with an ebb, and nearly low tide, he got the following soundings, at intervals of about 50 yards:—5fath., 5fath., 5 fath., 4½fath., 4½fath., 4fath., 4fath., 18ft. By this time the boat had got into the ground swell, and was close up to the rock mentioned. Captain Thomson then trended slightly towards the opening, getting soundings of 12ft. 12ft. and 9ft., with a strong current running, and being opposite a large boulder and making towards the point of the sandspit. He then took rapid soundings, getting 12ft., 12ft., 18ft.,

18ft., 18ft., 18ft., and 15.ft along the mid-channel, and made for a large boulder crowned with bushes in 12ft. and 12ft. At this place we went ashore and took a walk, accompanied by an innumerable and bloodthirsty horde of sandflies, along the beach, which we found covered with immense boulders of sandstone, hornblende, serpentine, conglomerate, and schist with quartz veins. Here we found the remains of the wreck of the schooner Pride, which went ashore at this spot about 1864. The hills rise very rapidly from the coast, being thickly wooded with hini-hini and other scrub, flax, grass-tree, cabbage palm, and numerous varieties of fern. Having dined, and crossed over to the other side of the river, which we found to be fresh water of excellent quality, we landed on the sandspit. We then discovered that what we had supposed to be bushes, consisted of tufts of coarse grass, flax, and a creeper bearing a flower much like a convolvulus. Here Captain Thomson left us with the boat in order to ascertain the depth of water on the bar. After placing a buoy consisting of a portion of a canoe or mogey which had been found on the beach, to indicate the position of the inner rock, he took soundings across the bar, having not less than 9ft, it being then about half flood. He then placed the boat to mark the position of the outer rock, and signalled for the steamer to enter, an arrangement having been made between Captain Holmes and the Harbour Master that the boat and buoy should be passed by the steamer on the port hand, and that she should follow the signal of the flags aff in the boat. The signal being perceived, the steamer tripped her anchor, and made for the entrance, all going well until she got into the narrows, when the signal was made to "port," but the vessel being caught by a sea on the one quarter and by the current from the river on the opposite bow, ran hard a-[illegible] helm, and struck ge[illegible] on the rock she was [illegible] backed off immediately attempt, giving the [illegible] but this time she tou[illegible] the sandspit. Backing off this she tried again, and succeeded in getting past the perils of the entrance.

UP THE RIVER.

Going at half-speed up the river, which here was fringed on the left hand by a low-lying belt of scrub, toi-toi, and grass tussocks, and on the other by the sandspit, we came, after a run of about a mile, to a place where it widened out, and where a sandbank occupied the middle of the stream. Then began a chapter of misfortunes which are not terminated at the time of the present writing. As it is true that a house divided against itself cannot stand, so it is equally true that two commanders on the same ship cannot agree, and that the vessel, between the Scylla of the one and the Charybdis of the other, comes, in conventional parlance, to grief. First of all, however, allow me, with all deference to the amount of nautical knowledge we had on board, to venture an opinion, and humbly to put it forward on the ground of that invaluable but rare commodity common sense. It is not often I venture opinions on matters I do not understand, but I do think that had our eminent naval authorities agreed to send a boat ahead to take soundings in the river, of whose channel, confessedly a devious one, they knew little or nothing, much of the annoyance, and (to the survey party at least) misfortune which occurred, might have been saved. First of all, then, we took what was deemed to be the deep, but turned out to be a blind, channel; then, after backing off the sandbank, we tried the other side — still the sandbank; backed off again, a few yards further, and the inevitable sandbank; and all this, [illegible], with a deep, though certainly, [illegible]annel, always on one or the [illegible] I do not know, but I [illegible]the command (after [illegible]e will say) had [illegible]n, who does [illegible]aving been [illegible] gone on [illegible] about [illegible] That is

to say, the head of Lake M'Kerrow—with a real West Coast day, rain and cold wind.

There was nothing for it, however, but to make the best of our difficulties; and in the afternoon, Sunday, the vessel being stuck stem and stern, Captain Thomson, four of the survey party, and myself, took the small boat, and in the teeth of the wind and the driving rain, went up the river to its débouchure from the lake, with the object of trying the depth of water at the lake bar. We found no bottom at 12 feet, the tide being half ebb, but were unable to go up the lake in consequence of the high wind and the heavy sea running, and had to run ashore under the shelter of a projecting point, and walk along the beach in order to find a place for our camp. We went to the spot selected by the previous party for the township, and found there the ruins of the store left by them, nothing remaining then, however, except a few of the upright posts. The site then selected was exposed to the south-east wind, which appears to be the prevalent one in this district, and Mr Thomson and Mr Strachan, on consideration, determined to try another place, selecting a sheltered nook in the bight of a lovely bay quite sheltered from the wind, and about half a mile north of the original site. Having done this, we retraced our steps, and on reaching the boat sounded the river all the way down to where we left the steamer, finding deep water all the way to the bank on which she was stuck. In fact the river, from the unfortunate spit which was the cause of our detention, is a deep, wide, noble stream, having a broad channel with a strong current, and is free of snags, except on the shallows near its banks, having water enough to carry a vessel of twice our tonnage. It is evident from the volume of water flowing down it that there is a deep channel all the way from the mouth of the river. The only awkward part of the navigation is the spit where we stuck, where the channel is very tortuous, and without proper marks being laid down, difficult to find. Owing to the thickness of the weather, it was impossible to see enough to form any idea of the lay of the surrounding country, further than to say that on both sides the river there appear to be tracks of flat, thickly-wooded country, running to the bases of the mountains, which are but faintly discernible through the mist.

ARRIVAL AT LAKE M'KERROW.

Sunday night's tide got us off the bank, and on Monday morning, after some delay, we proceeded up the river for the lake, the steamer, under the control of Captain Thomson, making her course without a stoppage and having deep water, not less than two fathoms, all the way. We entered the lake at about half past ten, and gave three hearty cheers for the steamboat that was the first to wake up the echoes of the mountains round Lake M'Kerrow with the stroke of her paddles. Anchoring in the pretty bay selected, we got our stores ashore in the rain, and found to our discomfiture that the flour and potatoes were wet, the result, as was supposed, either of bad stowage or of the hatches of the vessel not being watertight. After waiting for dinner, the steamer, with Captain Thomson on board, proceeded down the river intending to leave Martin's Bay by the next morning's tide.

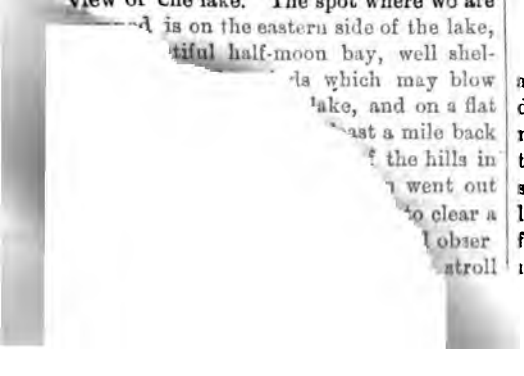
PITCHING THE CAMP.

On arriving at the place decided on by Messrs Thomson and Strachan, the leaders of the survey party, as the site for the future township on the shores of Martin's Bay, the steamer went in within 20 yards of the shore in deep water, having an anchorage of fine gravel. The stores were quickly, but not comfortably, landed, there being a heavy downpour of rain all the time. The party having come ashore, the steamer left us to our own devices on a narrow shingly beach with a thick forest of heavy maple, rata, and birch, filled up with an undergrowth of fern and supple-jack, in our re[mainder] dripping [condition] hands, ho[wever] assisted [by]

to prospect for gold, we soon made a clearing and pitched our tents, the stores being protected as well as possible by tarpaulins and sheets of corrugated iron. After some difficulty we succeeded in getting a fire to burn, our fireplace being the space between two huge trees, and the whole of the remainder of the day was taken up in putting things as right as possible under the circumstances. It was miserable work though, paddling through the soft spongy turf that formed our camping ground, completely saturated with wet from head to foot, and we were glad enough when the ducks beginning to fly home to their nests in the creeks gave the sign for turning in. Thus ended our first day on Lake M'Kerrow, and snugly ensconced under our rugs, blankets, and what not, we soon, defying alike sandflies and mosquitos, forgot our troubles in sound and well-earned sleep.

THE SITE OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Tuesday, the 1st of March, had hardly dawned, before we were awakened by the unwonted songs of birds, all sorts and sizes, who vied with one another in waking up the echoes of our primeval dwelling place with their melodious music. The morning rose heavily, and with thick drizzling rain. Soon after breakfast Mr Thomson and four men left for the steamer which was to have anchored in the river, and waited for the tide that served at 11 a.m. During the forenoon nothing was done, the weather remaining very wet; but after dinner the clouds cleared away, the sky became blue, and we got the first view of the tops of the surrounding mountains, and at the same time, our first fair view of the lake. The spot where we are



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along the beach, north and south, occasionally dipping into the bush with a view of looking at the soil. My impression on this subject I must, however, leave until a future communication, when I shall have gone further back than is at present practicable. Suffice it to say, that the land near the beach appears to be formed of a deposit of black soil and vegetable mould over a bed of fine quartz shingle, which, at one time must have formed the bed of a very much larger lake than at present exists here. One of the prospecting party went out and tried the beach in a few places, and also a fine wide creek about half a mile from the camp, but found no trace of gold. This, however, he did not consider as at all a fair trial. He intends to go further back towards the ranges, and to try some of the dry watercourses, the gold, if any, lying very deep near the lake. The remainder of the day was taken up in drying our wet clothing and warding off the attacks of the sandflies, of which this surely must be the head-quarters. Another unpleasant concomitant of life on the banks of Lake M'Kerrow is the multitude of blowflies, which spring into sudden existence when the sun shines. I had shot a fine specimen of the white crane, and carefully skinned it, intending to send it down to the Dunedin Museum, but I found it so blown, notwithstanding my having carefully wrapped up the skin, that I had to throw it away. Tuesday night ended at nine o'clock, by which time all hands had turned in, except the sandflies and their companion pests, the mosquitos, which had turned out in greater force than on the night preceding.

SNAGGING OF THE CHARLES EDWARD.

On Wednesday morning, we rose shortly after five, and rigged another tent as a dining room; and really our settlement now begins to look like a little town, there being six tents erected on the three sides of a quadrangular piece of cleared land. By breakfast time, we began to feel anxious for the return of the remainder of our party, who had gone

down the river with the intention of seeing the steamer safely out to sea; but at about 11 o'clock, they returned with the dismal intelligence that, in going down the river on Monday night, the Charles Edward had struck on a snag in the deep water channel at about a quarter ebb tide, and had driven a hole through her starboard bow. The captain immediately ordered the helm to be put down, and ran her stem on to the sand spit, but the tide catching her quarter forced her round, and jammed her in the shingle, where she lies at present. The water made its way into her fore compartment, and very soon afterwards, the bulkheads not being watertight, into her middle compartment. The tide being low, all the cargo was removed high and dry upon the beach. There is no immediate danger, nor does the damage appear to be very great, although it will be impossible to move her until another vessel is sent to her assistance. The accident occurred a little lower down than the sandspit, where she struck in coming up. This is the only dangerous or difficult part of the navigation of the river; and all the mischances which have occurred here, appear to have arisen simply from the channel not having been sounded and buoyed before she ventured up. Captain Thomson, with a party, left to-day for the head of the lake *en route* for Queenstown, whence they will telegraph the circumstances to the Government, and to the steamer's agents, so that another vessel may be despatched as soon as possible. At the same time I, with a party of three, left the encampment for the scene of disaster, partly to inspect the wreck, partly to look at the country below the lake, and partly to act in my new capacity of medical attendant to a passenger for Greymouth, who promised soon to be in want of aid. We found the vessel lying obliquely across the river, with a severe cant over to the port side, and, the tide being about flood, the water covering her lower side, and washing over her decks. The cargo had been removed from her, and landed on the sandspit. Four large tents had been erected, one for the Rev. Mr M'Intosh, a Presbyterian clergyman, and his family, who was leaving Lyttelton, where he had been settled for some time, to a new appointment at Greymouth; another for the captain and officers, and another passenger, Mr Goldsmith, traveller for a Dunedin firm. The third tent was erected for the petty officers, and another for the crew. The walls of the principal tents were constructed of luggage and cases of cheese and eggs, and the roofs consisted of the sails of the vessel. Under the circumstances, the whole of the human freight of the Charles Edward might be considered as to all intents and purposes sandboys, and were jolly accordingly. We took down a small survey tent lined with green baize for the convenience of the sick lady, and rigged it in the sand near the large one used by the remainder of the family.

DISCOVERY OF MAORI RELICS.

The weather continued fine for the remainder of the day, and until the afternoon of the following day, Thursday, the 3rd, when a north wind set in, bringing heavy rain, and rendering life anything but pleasant to us dwellers in tents. During the forenoon I went the whole length of the spit, and into some scrub at the south end, after passing which I found a succession of remarkable sandy hollows, sheltered from the sea on the west by lofty sand hummocks, and from the river on the east by a belt of dense scrub consisting of hini-hini, manuka, flax, fern, and the inevitable supple-jack. These hollows extend about a mile and a half in length, by 150 yards in width, and are strewn with innumerable pebbles, which have in various places been collected and built into Maori ovens, of which there are numerous traces. Near one of these ovens, or camping places, one of the sailors found a curious Maori club, and the seat of a war canoe, formed of the bones of a whale. Here I found several small pieces of greenstone (nephrite), evidently left there by the Maoris who had dwelt there, as, although the pebbles

and boulders lying in profusion around comprise quartz, porphyry, serpentine, sandstone, schists, and numerous varieties of conglomerates, there are no signs of native nephrite. It is generally supposed that this part of the coast has not been inhabited by Maoris; but these traces, as well as others found by Dr. Hector in 1864, prove the contrary. It may be mentioned, however, that there is a Maori tradition extant that a portion of a tribe having committed some breach of their native laws, the penalty for which was death, fled from the mouth of the Molyneux, where they were located, and took refuge in the lake country. It is not impossible that these traces may have been left by this body, who would probably be nomadic in their habits, wandering up and down the coast, the river, and the lake, and subsisting on the ducks, cranes and red-bills of the fresh water, the kakas and pigeons of the bush, and the fish which abound in the sea.

RETURN OF CAPTAIN THOMSON.

On Friday, the 4th, we were surprised by the re-appearance amongst us of Captain Thomson, who had proceeded as far as the head of the lake, but who had found it impossible to proceed through the bush there without retarding the rest of the party. As speed was the primary consideration in order to have the news of the disaster transmitted to town, he, accompanied by Mr Thomson, returned to the camp, sending on two men, however, to Queenstown with letters and telegrams. Captain Thomson describes the bush at the head of the Lake, and along the Upper Hollyford, as exceedingly dense and intricate, the former track being entirely lost in scrub and undergrowth.

EXPLORING THE COUNTRY.

On Friday afternoon, accompanied by Captain Thomson, I proceeded along the beach in a southerly direction, with a view of exploring that end of the bay. After walking over heavy sand for about three miles, we came to a fine creek running from the ranges into the sea. Up this creek we proceeded for some distance, prospecting for gold. We found a large quantity of very likely looking quartz, and in one piece which I broke off, I discovered a small speck of what I think was gold. This piece I brought away with me, but the speck got rubbed off in my pocket. We also tried the sand in the bed of the stream, and the dirt which lay on terraces, marking the height of the freshes along the sides, but although the wash dirt looked promising, we had no means of properly testing it, and could not find gold. Proceeding further, we scrambled over a rough bed of huge boulders, passing several small streams which trickled through the rocks from the scrub at the back. We found the beach at this part to consist of a long shallow strand running far out into the bay, and it may pretty safely be said that whatever anchorage there is in Martin's Bay lies at its northern end, where there is safe anchorage and excellent shelter with northerly winds. Hitherto, I have found no land on this side the river at all suitable for settlement, the whole of it consisting either of barren sandbanks, as on the sandspit on which we are located, or of swamp overgrown with reeds and scrub. Higher up the river, however, where I shall try next week, the land has a greater elevation, and, I think, much better soil.

ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT.

On Saturday morning, the 5th, we were doomed to another and a bitter disappointment. The party which had been sent on from the head of the lake with the messages for Queenstown had returned, bringing back the intelligence that they had gone on through the scrub for four or five miles, when they had been pulled up before reaching the ford of the Hollyford, by a creek in flood, and running bank high. After camping some time by it, in anticipation of seeing it go down, and finding no signs of diminution, they had unwillingly retraced their steps, and brought back the news of their failure to the camp. Mr Thomson came down to us with the intelligence, and it was at once proposed

that a party should start in the large whaleboat belonging to the survey, for Hokitika, distant about 150 miles north. In the afternoon a strong north-west wind, with heavy rain, came on, nearly tearing our tents away from their fastenings, and completely saturating both ourselves and our bedding. This, of course, totally prevented any start being made for Hokitika, but fortunately, as night came on, the wind went round to the south-west and the rain abated, so that we could sit round our fires with some degree of comfort, and dry our soaked garments.

THE LAND, AND PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

During the forenoon Mr Thomson succeeded in getting a base line of a mile for his surveying operations, taking it between two points in the spit, about midway of the bay. I crossed the river in the small survey boat, and going up a small creek, landed and forced my way for some distance through the scrub with a view of having a look at the land on that side. Opposite the sandspit in this part of the river there is a triangular patch of flat country, about a mile wide at its broadest (south) end. It is, like all the country in the district, densely scrubbed, but the soil appears to be moderately good on the top, and to contain more clay than I have seen in any other place in the district. There is no great depth of top soil, however, and the underlying stratum consists of river shingle.

During the day a party of four men proceeded to the creek along the beach, with the purpose of prospecting. They returned without getting the colour; but, as their trial merely amounted to trying a few dishes of sand and shingle from the bed of the river at its mouth, I do not consider any fair prospect to have been made, and still adhere to my original belief that, if it were tried higher up, and a proper bottom sunk for and got at, gold would be found, the quartz and detritus being of excellent appearance and in great quantity. Sunday morning brought with it a west breeze, with a few light showers, but a warm sun, and [illegible] wind to keep away those intolerable sandflies. The wind being favourable, preparations were made for starting for Hokitika the following morning in the boat, and in the afternoon divine service was held, the Rev. Mr M'Intosh reading prayer, and preaching a sermon suitable to our circumstances.

WEST COAST WEATHER.

During the night of Sunday, the 6th, the wind, after veering round from north west to south west, settled in a violent gale from the north west, bringing heavy rain and hail with thunder, which reverberated among the mountains by which we are surrounded with appalling noise. The rain beat into our tents, rendering our blankets thoroughly wet. In short, the night was a most uncomfortable one, and every person in the encampment earnestly wished for the morning. This broke at last, cold, grey, and cheerless, the weather being so severe as to entirely preclude all idea of starting for Hokitika in the boat. The break on the bar was very heavy, and extended out to a distance of a quarter of a mile, in five fathom water. The sound of the surf breaking on the sand bank on which we are located was heard distinctly at the survey camp, nearly four miles distant. The narrow boat passage was totally impracticable, and the wind being from the wrong quarter the expedition was postponed *sine die*. The weather continued bad the whole of Monday, and on that day it was impossible to stir from camp. During the night, however, it moderated somewhat, and on Tuesday morning the wind and rain had so far gone down, although there were occasional gusts and heavy showers, that Captain Thomson and myself were able, with a boat's crew, to visit the Lake encampment. We found that the Survey department had been unable, from the severity of the weather, to make much progress [illegible] passed a [illegible]

GENERAL ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.

During the day I took the opportunity of examining the land on the west side of the river, and found much excellent country lying between it and the coast ranges. The river below the lake, I may here explain, somewhat resembles in its course the letter Z reversed, thus, ⤡. Beginning at the bottom, which corresponds to the north part, the first arm represents the entrance to the sea and the course of the river from N.W. to S.E. for about a mile. On the W. side of this is the sandbank on which we are located, and about halfway up it lies the Charles Edward stranded. The E. side consists of a thickly scrubbed tract of low lying land, gradually rising to the ranges, and being about a mile wide in its broadest part. This is the tract I spoke of above as nearly forming a triangle. On going further into the bush, I found after leaving the banks of the river, it became more open and more heavily timbered with large pine, birch, and kowhai. The soil is rich and composed of alluvial deposit overlying beds of shingle to the depth of from one to two feet, and probably deeper further back. It is fit to grow almost any kind of produce. Potatoes, cabbages, carrots, maize, &c., would in all probability grow in profusion, but the soil seems at present to be too heavy and rank for wheat. This tract of country abounds with small streams, most of them being worthy only of the name of water courses, but a few admitting a small boat up them for some distance. None of these seem to possess the characteristics of gold bearing creeks, although it is impossible to say what may be found in their beds in the ranges. So far as can be seen of them, they appear to flow over beds of pebbly shingle, having cut their way through banks of black mould, and occasional beds of clay. These creeks, as does indeed the entire district, abound in paradise and grey ducks, and other [illegible]fowl, while the scrub is thronged [illegible]eons, kakas, tuis, mokomokos, [illegible] crows, and numerous other [illegible] feathered race. After [illegible]e of the river, the second arm, corresponding to the middle portion of the letter, runs to the N.E., and is a fine, open reach of water, about half a mile in length, and of considerable width and depth. It is bordered on both sides by land sloping back from the water, its north shore being portion of the country just described. On the opposite side the land is still better timbered, and rises to a greater height from the river, which is here fringed with toi-toi grass. At this point the rata begins to grow, although it is not seen to much advantage until further up the lake; and here also the tutu tree begins to attain considerable dimensions. Occasional specimens of the cabbage tree are also met with, and the grass tree grows to a great height. The upper limb of the letter corresponds to the upper arm of the lower Hollyford river flowing out of the lake, and it is on this arm that, so far as I have seen as yet, the best land lies. The east bank corresponds in character with the country I have already described, except that it is timbered with heavier trees, and that it runs with a gradual slope into the water. The characteristics of the opposite, or west bank, are, however, more distinctly marked. The banks rise perpendicularly from deep water to a height varying in different places from 12 to 20 feet, and in spots where there have been landslips the character of the soil may be plainly seen. The upper soil ranges from 18 inches to 3 feet in thickness, beneath this is a layer of pebbly and shingly deposit, then another layer of alluvial soil, and underneath that shingle and boulders. The top soil, so far as I can judge, seems rich in the extreme, although it is very difficult to examine it in consequence of the luxuriant growth of fern and underwood, which almost effectually bars the way between the heavy timber. Many of the trees are of immense girth and stature. It is not too much to say that a saw mill established on this part of the river would be a highly remunerative undertaking. It would have the advantage of water carriage accessible in almost all weathers to

vessels drawing, say 10 feet water (the bar being the shallowest part), and there being 12 ft. there at high water, with a deepening process constantly going on by means of the freshes, which are gradually carrying away the point of the spit. Of this land there is a vast area, extending as it does from the bend in the river fully a mile inland, and for a long distance up the lake. It is a question whether this, although not having the same extent, will not be the more valuable side of the water for agricultural settlement, the land being higher, and getting more sun than the opposite side. On Wednesday, the 9th, I took another trip into the scrub I have previously mentioned as lying at the south end of the sandspit, extending my ramble for a considerable distance further than I had been before along the curious sandy hollows I have spoken of. I was rewarded by finding the remains of another Maori whare, consisting of two uprights made of the trunks and roots of trees, and the lean-to of poles. I came back in great glee, thinking I had made a great discovery, but was informed that the spot had been already seen and marked on the chart as "Maori whare." I, however, investigated pretty closely a succession of Maori clearings which I found in the bush. The soil in these, as in all this neighbourhood, consists of good black mould, with a considerable admixture of drift sand. The clearings are quite distinct, and are now overgrown with beds of thick moss, deliciously soft and elastic to the tread, coarse grass, and that troublesome burr-bearing plant called by the natives bidi-bidi. I was covered with it up to the knees, and my dog, who accompanies me in all my rambles, came out an animated mass of snuff-coloured burrs. The weather all day was fine and warm, with a light S.W. wind blowing, not sufficient, however, to keep off the sandflies. On my return to camp in the afternoon I found all hands engaged in the very necessary operation of washing, an example I was very glad to follow while the opportunity offered. Could the weather hold up, it is the intention of Captain Holmes to start with a boat's crew for Hokitika early to-morrow morning (Thursday).

FURTHER EXPLORATION.

Thursday, the 10th March, opened dark and dismal, a heavy mist veiling from the sight everything beyond a short distance from camp. The hills which overhung us on three sides were totally obscured, and even the opposite bank of the river was only faintly discernible. The river flowed blackly and sullenly by, and the break of the rollers on the beach behind us came with an angry and melancholy moan. What little wind there was, and fortunately there was but little, was bitterly cold, and a miserable thick drizzle fell incessantly. Without, all was cheerless enough, but within the precincts of the camp all was bustle and activity, for the boat's crew that was to bear the news of the mishap to the Charles Edward to Hokitika was preparing to start. After an early breakfast, the captain, the purser, and four hands embarked in the whale-boat, having provisions for several days with them, and the usual appliances for camping should they find it necessary, and at about 7 o'clock a.m. started on their venturesome voyage of 150 miles on the open ocean in a boat. We watched them down the river, and beyond the bar at its mouth, until they were shrouded from our view by the mist, and then, with hearty wishes for their safety and the success of their expedition, returned to camp. During the forenoon the fog lifted a little, and the rain ceased, although the sky was still overcast with thick clouds. I availed myself of the opportunity offered to penetrate further than I had previously into the scrub lying at the southern end of the sand spit. After passing a blind creek, which terminated in a small reedy lagoon, a splendid place for grey ducks, by the way, I made my way th[illegible] undergrowth of flax, su[illegible] tree, and stunted pine. [illegible] bed of a wide trib[illegible] ford, falli[illegible]

angle, and running nearly due north. This creek bed, although nearly dry when I visited it, was about a quarter of a mile wide, and formed a swamp overgrown with rushes, almost as high as myself. Through its midst flowed the stream, a somewhat sluggish one, with water slightly stained brown from passing through peat beds higher up. By dint of wading, jumping, and picking my way, I managed to get to the defined creek, and went some distance up, to cross it; immediately after doing so, I found the land began to rise, and a few minutes' scramble through the thick undergrowth, which invariably forms a belt along the banks of water-courses in this locality, brought me amongst the heavy timber on the flat lying on the south side of the second and west side of the third reach of the river. Looking from the camp in this direction, the north end of the ranges on the western side of the lake, the Darran ranges, I believe they are called, appear to be only a very short distance from the Hollyford river, but after scrambling through the bush for nearly a mile, I found no apparent diminution in the distance, and certainly no perceptible rise. The soil was rich, black, and loamy, and on digging down in a small open space, as well as I could with my tomahawk, I found no sign of shingle or gravel. The whole of the land was thickly covered with fine trees, red and white pine, rata, birch, totara, and kowhai, and densely scrubbed with undergrowth. Like the land on the other side the river, it would produce fine crops of potatoes and vegetables, though whether it would grow wheat or not, I should not like to say. It strikes me as being too heavy and rank. Returning, I struck more to the southward, and fell in with the bed of a large lagoon, much of which was, however, merely swamp, and was overgrown with reeds. This brought me to a sandy hollow, a continuance of the remarkable hollows I have previously
'bed, in the scrubby border of which
—l more Maori clearings,
-e grass, thick soft
-ional patches of
dwarf birch and veronica. Lying like oases in the midst of these wastes of land and water worn stones, I found a number of small hillocks overgrown with the latter shrub (veronica) and here and there patches of a plant much resembling the tutu, of a curious creeper having a leaf like ivy, and of a small shrub almost like box, but bearing snow white berries, quite hollow, and spirting out a few drops of clear water when squeezed. With the names of none of these was I acquainted, nor could I learn them; they all grew in the sand, and were all subject to immersion in salt water, the sea evidently breaking over the low parts of these sand hummocks in bad weather, and in high spring tides probably. Before I reached camp, the rain, which had been threatening the whole day, re-commenced, but as I was enveloped in my waterproof coat, alike serviceable against the weather and the thick undergrowth in the woods, I did not mind it much, particularly as the wind kept down, and the sea was smooth—both circumstances favourable to the party that had gone out on the boat expedition. In the latter part of the afternoon, some of the sailors who remained behind went to the mouth of the river, in the small boat, for the purpose of fishing, and returned with a hamper nearly full of fish, which they called firemen, and which were dark grey in colour, shaped somewhat like a mullet, and about five or six pounds in weight. These they caught off the rocks at the entrance, where they abound. A previous fishing party who had fished on the bar in the large boat brought home a large quantity of blue cod, trumpeter, barracouta, soldier fish, and cray fish. Neither party was absent much more than an hour, and there is no doubt that the banks off the land in Martin's Bay are excellent fishing grounds. The rain continued the whole day, and towards evening a light wind springing up from the south-west, veering round occasionally to the south-east, and even to the east, with driving showers of rain and sleet, drove all hands to their damp beds under the partial shelter of the rudely con-

structed tents. This day the sheep was killed; only two were saved from the vessel, and one of them got away and was drowned in a lagoon up the beach. We had long been out of flour, using oatmeal instead, oatmeal porridge, oatmeal cakes, and, the previous Sunday, an oatmeal plum-pudding. There is, however, abundance of that, and of cheese, eggs, and bacon, so that with the fish in the sea and the ducks in the river there is no fear of starvation. For supper we—that is to say, the Rev. Mr M'Intosh, Mrs M'Intosh, myself, and Captain Thomson, who occupy the same suite of apartments—have oatmeal porridge and jam, Captain Thomson being the artist; and, allow me to inform you, excellent fare it is, if you are hungry, as living on a sandspit is likely to render you.

AMUSEMENTS AT THE CAMP.

The amusements most in vogue in the settlement are, looking out to sea for the relief steamer which never comes—growling at the Otago Government and at Edwards and Co. for not sending her—watching the ensign, union down, mind you, to see how the wind blows—disputing as to the day of the month and of the week, for some of us have lost count—smoking to keep off the sand-flies—playing whist and chess (the purser and a passenger having cleverly manufactured a set of chessmen out of a willowy kind of scrub that grows on the sandhills, and improvised a board by means of the inkbottle, on the bottom of one of the pantry drawers)—listening to a kind of Dutch chorus by a cornopean and a tambourine—the only musical instruments available, and sitting at night in the smoke of the drift wood fires singing melancholy songs, with choruses, under a dreary false pretence of being jolly. Friday, the 11th, was a still more miserable day than the one preceding it. The rain was heavier and the wind colder. Even at mid-day, when things were at their brightest, only the bases of the mountains could be seen, their summits being enveloped in thick masses of leaden coloured cloud, and it was impossible to stir from camp. There was some consolation, however, in knowing the wind was, if not quite a favourable, not an unfavourable one for those who had started for Hokitika, and conjecture was rife as to how far they had got, and when they would reach the end of their voyage. During the day, and as the tide was running out and promised to be very low in the river, Captain Thomson proposed that an attempt should be made to lighten the stern end of the steamer by baling the water out of her after hold and saloon, and seeing if she would not float at that end. All hands were called to the buckets, and in the course of a few hours of incessant baling, the water in the vessel abaft the engine-room was so far subdued that the stern floated a good foot higher than heretofore. A warp was then passed from the stern to an anchor embedded in the sandspit, and she was hauled round more into the current. It appears that the bank on which she lies is almost under her middle, there being deep water both forward and abaft, so that she can be turned as on a pivot, and it is quite practicable, so far as I can see and learn, that if the hole in her starboard bow could be stopped by any means, the vessel righted (she now lies canted over on her port side), and the water pumped out of her at low tide, she would float at flood.

A LITTLE STRANGER.

Nothing more occurred during the day, the rain continuing to beat down incessantly, except that from certain signs which I observed it occurred to me that my services as the medical adviser to the camp might be needed, and that our small community might become larger, and I held myself in readiness accordingly. At half-past three on the morning of Saturday the 12th, I was roused from my lowly couch by the information was wanted; and at 20 minutes of the same day, the first newly formed settlement child was born, the daughter of

M'Intosh, late of Lyttelton, and who had come round in the Charles Edward to a new charge at Greymouth. I need hardly tell you that the event caused quite a commotion in the camp, and I have much pleasure in recording, in the stereotyped phrase, mother and child are doing well.

THE LAKE CAMP.

During the forenoon, Mr Thomson and his staff came down from the camp on the lake, bringing down with them their tents and surveying instruments, for the purpose of going on with the operations in getting the points for the first triangulation. Mr Thomson decided to take his points at the top of a hill immediately opposite the south end of the spit, and at a remarkable conical hill near the north-west corner of the lake. Planting, therefore, his flags, one at each end of his base line, which was, as I previously described, carried for about a mile along the sand hummocks on which we were located, he proceeded to direct the clearance of a piece of ground for the second survey camp. He was accompanied by Mr Page, who having given up all idea of going back overland, had come down to the sandspit to wait for the relief steamer.

In the afternoon, the weather being fine, although a strong south west wind was blowing, and my patient being all right and comfortable, I took advantage of the return of Mr Thomson to go back to the lake camp in order to inspect the country lying round that part of the settlement. We took back the whole of the party who had come down, and I landed at the point where the lower Hollyford leaves the lake, for the purpose of looking at the land between that place and the camp, a distance of about a mile, as the crow flies. I found that the soil [illegible] much of the nature of that [illegible] of the river, being [illegible] overlying [illegible] covered [illegible] stone, [illegible] depth as the land recedes from the lake, and at some distance inwards there is as much as from four to five feet of soil before reaching the shingle bottom. At this, as on the opposite side, there is a large swampy lagoon lying near the foot of the hill in the background, about a mile distant from the shores of the lake, the whole of the intervening space being well adapted for cultivation. Proceeding along the shingle beach of the lake, the water of which had fallen three or four feet since I last visited it, I soon reached the eastern shore. I found that the flat land was here still more extensive, the hills appearing to recede, and form a kind of semi-circular opening, about, as nearly as I could judge, two or three miles in depth at its widest part. It is within this semicircle, and somewhat more than midway along it from the north end of the lake, that the township is situated, and on this flat it is probable that the centre of agricultural settlement will be found. The soil is good, and the timber very large, some of the pines in particular being of immense girth and height. This tract, which, in common with all the country hereabouts, appears to improve in quality as it is situated further from the lake, has a very gentle slope towards the foot of the hills, and is well watered by five or six small creeks. It is, however, almost impassable for some distance from the lake on account of the dense undergrowth, until the ferns supersede the low thick bush, when it may be traversed with comparative ease. After proceeding for about two miles along the beach, the headlands and indentations of the lake marking the difference in distance, I reached the pretty little cove in which the survey camp is placed, and which marks nearly the middle of the township. By this time the south-west wind, which had been blowing pretty strongly all the afternoon, had increased to a fierce gale, and the rollers broke on the beach with great fury. The remainder of the party who were in the boat had much difficulty in making headway against the storm, and reached the camp after a three hours'

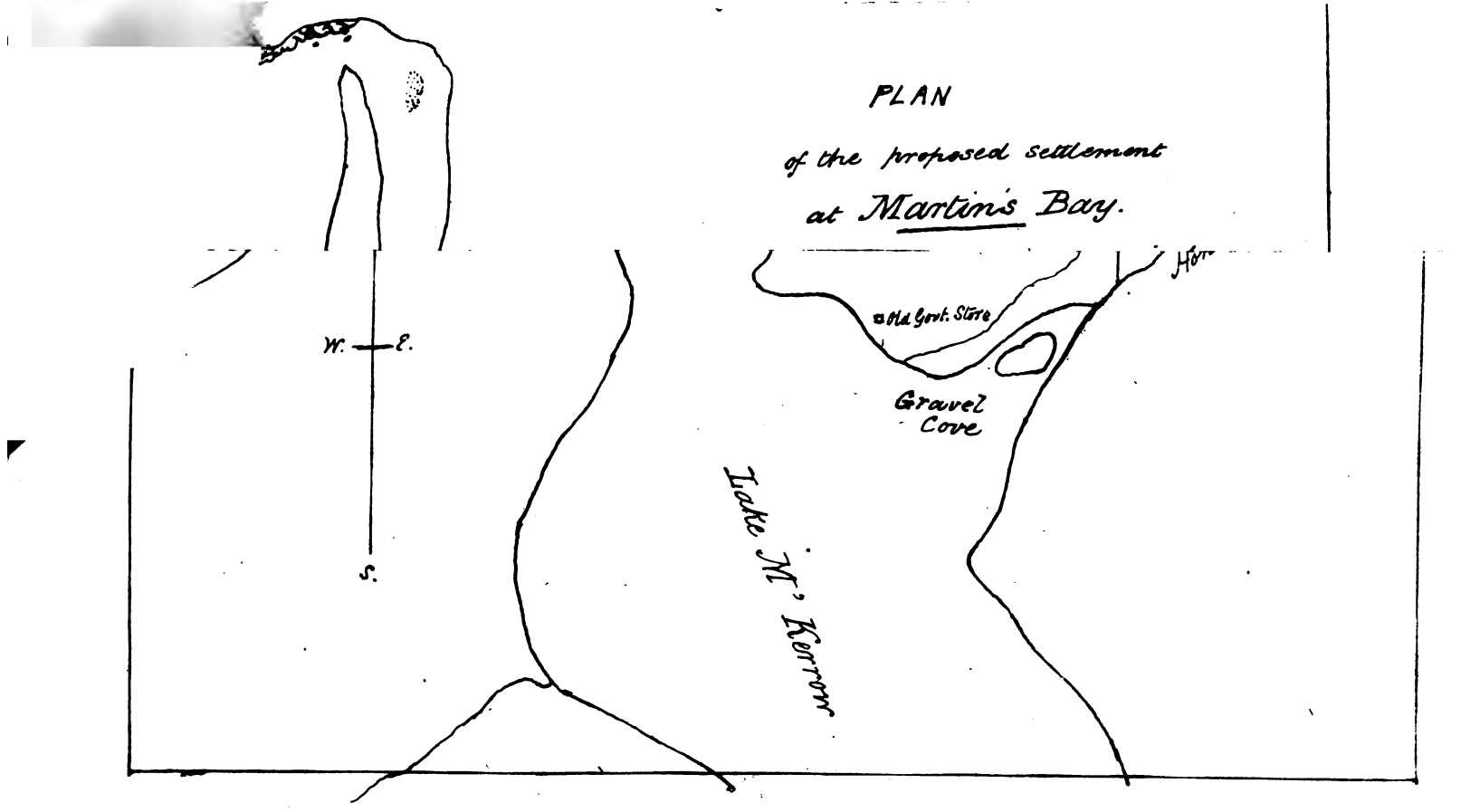
pull, thoroughly drenched and tired. I found that the encampment had undergone a complete transformation during my short absence. The wooden house was finished, and was, if not an elegant, a really comfortable building, and alongside it a roomy log house had been erected, which served the purpose of kitchen, dining-room, and store-room. The bush had been cleared between the encampment and the water's edge, a distance of twenty or thirty yards, and the entire place looked quite like the nucleus of a thriving settlement.

PROGRESS OF THE SURVEY.

I found that during my absence from the camp on the lake, considerable progress had been made in the survey department, and that the site and boundaries of the township had been roughly laid down. The interior of the wooden house had been fitted up as a district land office, and Mr Strachan, the Government draughtsman, had everything in readiness to receive applications for land under the settlement clause. He had had the southern point of the beautiful little half-moon bay in which the camp was situated, cleared of bush, and had erected a stand-point whence to take astronomical observations, and from which to obtain the true meridian. He had also erected a rain gauge, and had taken the bearings of several points along the beaches of both sides the lake. This, with his office work, had kept him very busy, the more particularly as, from the unfavourable weather which had ruled, he had had very great difficulty in obtaining views of the surrounding peaks, which had been generally enveloped in mist or dense rain clouds. Sunday, the 13th, was a day of rest, the wind having lulled during the night, and the clouds having cleared off, with a promise of fine weather. Divine service was held at the camp on the sandspit, but none of the party from our camp went down, the weather being still too unsettled to venture with a certainty of being able to get back easily. On Monday, the 14th, we were all up at daybreak, the sunrise which came just before breakfast promising a glorious day, a promise which was amply fulfilled, for a more lovely day never shone under the heavens. At an early hour Mr Thomson, taking four men with him, returned to his camp at the head of the sandspit, Mr Page going back with him; and Mr Strachan, myself, Mr M'Kenzie, and a Dutch settler named Kleber, being left at the camp. With Mr Thomson went also the two prospectors who came over with the party, they having made up their minds to shift their quarters to the lower camp, as being nearer Big Bay, the part of the country they had made up their minds to try for gold. After breakfast we started in the small boat for the opposite side of the lake, Mr Strachan to clear a point in the bush on which to erect a pole and flag opposite to his observation point, and myself to explore that side of the lake.

THE WEST SIDE OF THE LAKE.

I landed at a place about two miles from the lower end of the lake, where the flat land appeared to run back for about half or three quarters of a mile, and walked in a southerly direction round the beach which led into a shallow cove, for about a mile. At the corner of the bight I passed a board nailed against tree, having the following inscription scratched upon it, "Government grub at head of lake," and being apparently about two years old. This had probably been left by the party who were at the lake when the old Government store on the eastern shore was erected, and who established a camp at the head of the lake, or rather about a mile up the river. As I proceeded round the bight I found that the flat land rapidly narrowed, and I presently came to a precipitous hill running out boldly into the lake, and forming the south he[illegible]. At this place was a watercourse running [illegible]. It flowed in a zig-zag [illegible] of flood had cleared [illegible] distance precisely re[illegible] made and well kept [illegible]


PLAN
of the proposed settlement
at Martin's Bay.
W.
E.
S.
Old York. Store
Gravel Cove
Lake M' Korrom

summit. Turning back from this point, I struck into the bush, and after forcing my way through the thick scrub which bounded the margin of the lake, I found fine open forest with very heavy timber. The undergrowth, beyond a few supplejacks, and occasional low bushes, was very sparse, and for some considerable distance I found no soil more than an inch or so in thickness. Turning towards the hills, however, in a westerly direction, I descended a slight declivity, and after crossing a patch of swampy ground about a chain in width, I ascended to a plateau of still greater elevation, and found the soil improve at every step. Still, taking distance for distance from the lake, I did not find so good soil on this as on the eastern side of the lake, and although I penetrated to where the land began to rise into the hill side terraces, and found good land there, it was of comparatively limited extent. As I went further north, however, I found that the good land attained a greater width, but that the shingle extended a considerable distance back from the lake, probably half way between it and the base of the hills, before there was what might be called even moderately good soil. Further down the lake in a northerly direction, and on that side, the character of the land improves materially, the terraces being higher, rising regularly, with a few swampy intermissions, until a little way below the entrance to the river they attain a height of about twenty feet above water level, and then slope away again downwards until at the first bend in the river, they have an elevation of not more than from three to four feet.

THE HOKURI CREEK.

At about 12 o'clock, noon, I returned with Mr Strachan to the east side of the lake, leaving the two men hard at work setting up the flagstaff, and proceeded southwards down the east beach for the purpose of looking at the land in that direction. Striking into the bush at the south point of the Halfmoon cove, I found good soil at a short distance from the lake, the surface being, however, very uneven, and intersected with numerous watercourses and swampy depressions The timber in this part of the settlement attains an immense size, and the country is more open and free from undergrowth than that to the north of the township. It is, however, thickly covered with fern and the timber is much interwoven with creepers, principally supplejacks and lawyers. This part of the settlement is comprised within the township boundary for some distance back from the beach, although there is abundant available land of excellent quality lying to the east of the township, and between it and the base of the hills. Striking to the southwest I emerged from the bush on the beach at the spot where the Government store noticed by the expedition of 1867 had stood. I say had stood, advisedly, for nothing is now left of it save a couple of what were once upright posts, now sadly deflected ; and the remains of a few cross beams, all overgrown to the height of fix or six feet with kowhai scrub. Proceeding along the beach I came to the northernmost arm of the Hokuri Creek, or rather river (for it really deserves the latter title), a fine large rapidly flowing stream rising by two heads in the Skipper's range, and emptying itself into the lake by two mouths. The intervening space between these forms an island about a quarter of a mile wide and half a mile long, and overgrown with flax, toi-toi, coarse grass, and dwarf hini-hini and tutu bushes. This is the spot on which Dr Hector is supposed to have camped during his visit to the lake in 1863, and where the expedition of 1867 also located itself for one night. The bight into which the Hokuri Creek falls is called Gravel Cove, and as such is marked on the maps. The Creek itself forms the southern boundary of the township as at present projected. Crossing over the northern arm, which took me up to the knees in water, I proceeded along the island, and reached the south or main arm of the creek, which forms a stream about a chain wide, with a depth of about three feet and a rapid current. I skirted the north bank of the stream for a con-

derable distance up, passing a fine tributary on the opposite side about 200 yards up, and presently getting out of the lower part of the island to a place where the land shelved upward, the south bank forming an overhanging precipice of from 20 to 30 feet in height. Along the foot of this bank, which is formed of large granite boulders imbedded in clay, and crowned with a layer of black soil over shingle, a foot in thickness, I scrambled for about a quarter of a mile, sometimes on the fallen boulders, sometimes over the knees in water, until I reached a high fall, near the foot of which, at a wide and comparatively shallow place in the creek I crossed to the opposite side. At this place the depth of water was nowhere much more than halfway up the thighs, although the rapidity of the current, and the unevenness and slipperiness of the boulder bottom, rendered crossing somewhat difficult even with the assistance of a pole. Proceeding along the edge of the creek, I found numerous pieces of carbonaceous shale strewed on the bank and in the bed of the creek, evidencing the existence of coal at a greater distance up the ranges. Granite of very fine grain, and in fractured pieces, is also found along the bed of the creek, so that in all probability there are large masses of this valuable stone towards the head of the creek. Still further up, and ascending into the bases of the mountains, are overhanging precipices of clay slate, the whole formation looking a very likely one for the existence of auriferous deposit. I scooped up some of what I imagined looked likely wash dirt, and tried it in my hands, but without success. Striking from the river bank into the bush, in a south-easterly direction, I soon reached a positive ascent, and by dint of climbing and scrambling over the huge trunks of fallen trees which lay about in profusion, I succeeded in about an hour's time in reaching a fine wide terrace, well wooded, and covered with a thick bed of deliciously soft and elastic moss. From this point, probably 500ft. or 600ft above sea level, I obtained a fine view between occasional breaks in the foliage below me, of the lake and flat country to the northward, the latter presenting only the appearance, however, of a dense and unbroken mass of sombre foliage. Returning to the lower level down the bed of a small mountain stream, I soon reached the flat land, which I found of good quality, lighter and more sandy perhaps than that on the other side the creek, but timbered with fine large handsome trees, and not very heavily scrubbed. When I reached the level country, I left the creek bed and struck through the bush in a north-westerly direction, making for the mouth of the creek. I came across several dry creek beds of sand and fine shingle, in a few of which I tried, but unsuccessfully, for gold. My impression is, that in every one of these creeks, as in all the others in the neighbourhood, gold exists in smaller or larger quantities, but that the true "bottom" lies at some distance below the surface, and that it will be necessary to sink to some depth before the country can even be said to have been at all tried for gold. The prospectors who accompanied the expedition, have tried in three or four places, the north arm of the Hokuri Creek and the lake beach itself, among others. As yet, however, their prospecting has merely been taking up a few handsful of the surface shingle and sand, and trying for the colour, which they have not succeeded in obtaining. My belief is, however, that when they or others go at it with a will, and sink to the original bottoms or beds of these water-courses, the result will amply repay them for their toil and trouble. The flat which extends for about half a mile beyond the Hokuri Creek in a southerly direction, is the limit of level country on that side the lake, the ranges, or rather spurs from the ranges (Skipper's), closing in there and forming the south end of the semi-circular valley in which the township is situated. The Hokuri Creek is undoubtedly the finest stream, excepting the Hollyford River, which flows into Lake M'Kerrow. It is wide and deep in places, and running as it does through

heavily-timbered country, its banks will, in all probability, be the sites of saw-mills when the district becomes settled. For this purpose, from the strength and rapidity of the current, they are admirably adapted, water-power being available to any extent. For the purposes of navigation it, in common with all the other creeks in the locality, is entirely useless, the shallowness of its mouth, its numerous falls and rapids, and the large masses of timber it brings down in times of flood, totally precluding any such use being made of it. It flows through a gorge or saddle lying between the Skipper's Range on the south-east, and the Sara Hills on the north, rising by two heads, the main stream being that flowing from the heights of the former, and the smaller one that from the latter range. Between these two ranges, and lying immediately behind the township at a distance of five or six miles, is a low saddle, over which a road to Big Bay might, in all probability, be easily made. This would render the journey from the Martin's Bay Settlement to that district, a gold-bearing one, as will be hereafter shown, a very short one, not more, perhaps, than eight or nine miles long, and over flat country or gentle slopes all the way except the rise and fall of the saddle itself. This is a work which will, no doubt, be soon commenced and carried out when the settlement becomes established. Finding my way along the flat, I struck the lake about a hundred yards above the creek, and found a ford over the latter at a spot about the same distance from its mouth, just above a shingle bank lying in its middle, and at a place where it ran wide and shallow. I returned to the camp late in the afternoon thoroughly tired, and after going over the lake with Mr Strachan for the two men we had left there [illegible] in the day, was glad enough to [illegible] for the remainder of the [illegible]

VISIT TO [illegible]

Later, Mr [illegible] came up from [illegible] necessaries [illegible]

take down in the morning, and, as they started early the following morning, I determined to take a run down with them to the sandspit in order to see how my patient and the little stranger were progressing. Accordingly, after concocting an anodyne from the medicine chest for her use, should she require it, I started with them soon after breakfast, and got to the ship's camp early in the forenoon. I found things in pretty much the same state as when I left, Mrs M'Intosh getting on famously, and the baby being well and healthy. They had taken advantage of the fine weather to uncover the tents and give them an airing, and I found Captain Thomson busily engaged in re-rigging the family dwelling. The Rev. Mr M'Intosh expressed his intention of giving the name of Martina Whitworth to his young daughter, partly as a memento of the inhospitable shore on which she first saw the light, and partly out of compliment to myself. On the invitation of the officer left in charge, I dined in the saloon tent for the last time, having decided, the weather seeming to have set in fine, to start on my overland journey to Lake Wakatipu the following day.

MORE STRANGERS.

Hardly was dinner over, and the calumet of peace lighted, when one of the children rushed in with "a fell of horrent hair," and the news that in the boat which had been taken out on a fishing excursion to the mouth of the river, some strangers were approaching. There was of course a general stampede to the beach, and sure enough, there they were, three men and a dog, with the latter of whom my faithful Don, who is usually of a jealous turn of mind, and inclined to do battle on very slight grounds, fraternised at once. The new comers informed us that they were diggers, working at the [illegible] river, an opening in the main land [illegible] lying to the north of Big [illegible] the province of Canterbury, [illegible] Awarua river, the [illegible] province and Otago. [illegible] Andrew H. Wil

liamson and his two mates, being the only one located in the district. They reported that the whaleboat, with Captain Holmes and his crew, had put in at the Gorge at about three o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday, the 10th, and had remained at their camp until Saturday, the 12th, when they had proceeded on their way to Hokitika. They (the diggers) had done all they could to render the boat party comfortable (a fact which has since been fully borne out and acknowledged by Captain Holmes in his report of the voyage), and having learnt that the settlement of Martin's Bay was contemplated, had come down to take up land under the settlement clause. Williamson, the leader of the party, said that he had previously been at Lake M'Kerrow, having, with a party, made his way over from Riverton to Jackson's Bay by the Hollyford River and Lake M'Kerrow. He expressed great faith in the Martin's Bay settlement, and said that so soon as he and his mates heard of it they determined to come over and take up land. After bidding good-bye to the ship's party, I proceeded, in company with the diggers, to the lower survey camp at the head of the spit, with the intention of returning to the lake camp, and starting early the following morning on my journey. I found that the survey party had their tents erected under the lee of some thick bushes which fringe the river at this point, and that they were hard at work cutting away the summits of some of the sand hummocks, so as to afford an uninterrupted view between the two points of Mr Thomson's base line. After a short stay at the camp, I bade farewell to Mr Thomson and the rest of the party, and started, with three diggers, and Kleber, the German settler, for the upper camp. We arrived early in the afternoon, and, in a conversation I had with Williamson, I learned that they were making good wages at the Gorge, their great difficulty being that of obtaining supplies with any degree of regularity, although a small steamer came down from Hokitika every two months with supplies to Bruce Bay, where a considerable number of men were at work. If a store could be established at Martin's Bay, where diggers could rely on obtaining their necessaries, it would induce prospectors to locate at Big Bay and along the Hollyford, but, under existing circumstances, it was impossible for them to do so on account of being unable to procure supplies. He showed me a specimen of the gold obtained on the beach workings, and gave me a small sample of it. The gold is scaly and much waterworn, and is of precisely the same character as that found farther north. Of course I found him somewhat reticent as to the positive amount of gold himself and his mates were obtaining, but he said that they were very well satisfied with what they were doing. Himself and his party took up their sections, and as during the evening the ship's boat came down with some of the crew who had determined to take up land, Mr Strachan was kept tolerably busy making out forms of application, and marking off the sections. Kleber, who in virtue of his having four children, had taken up a double section, went back with the boat, to see his mates, the prospectors, as I had arranged with Mr Strachan that he should accompany me as far as the ford of the Hollyford the following day. On his return from the lower camp, the same night, he brought me up the following diary from Williamson, which will be useful for intending settlers at Martin's Bay starting from Southland.

DIARY OF ANDREW H. WILLIAMSON, FROM RIVERTON TO JACKSON'S BAY, W.C.

"Henry Power, Fred Carr, Andrew Young, and myself, Wednesday, 5th December, 1866, left Riverton at noon, and made B. M'Gee's store, where we spent a jolly day. Thursday 6th, and the 7th and 8th, reaching Prince's station. Made enquiry at M'Alpine's if he would be kind enough to give us shelter for the night, stating also that we had plenty of provisions, &c., but he said he had no room. I thanked him for his kindness, and we travelled on to Prince's, where we were very kindly treated. Stopped there all night. Sunday 9th.—Made Greeves's

early, where we camped for the night. Monday, 10th.—Started early, passed M'Kellar's at noon, took the wrong road, and had to return; camped at dusk. Tuesday, 11th.—Started early and made Van's hut about noon. Got several fine specks of gold in a creek turning towards Wakatipu. Felt a shock of an earthquake about 1 p.m. Young went to M'Kellar's in company with the shepherd to lead his horse. Getting everything ready for a fine day. Wednesday, December 12th.—Young came back about noon; made everything ready for an early start. Thursday, 13th.—Started early and travelled in a N.N.W direction through a flat where a small stream ran down towards Wakatipu; had dinner in the head of the flat abreast of the gap that leads to Von Tunzleman's. Got over the saddle and down in the Mararoa Flat that enters into the Te Anau lake. Kept along the east side till we made a small lake, when we camped in sight of the rugged peaks of the Greenstone (keeping in a northerly direction from where we left the saddle). Friday 14th, got up early, caught an eel, and started as soon as possible, keeping a northerly direction towards the Greenstone, passed another lake, and came to a bush where we got on to a very good cut track (Hector's), which took us down to the Greenstone. Travelling up the river towards the dividing range, we camped in a bush on the left hand side coming up. Saturday, Dec. 15th.—Thunder and a cloudy morning; made another large lake, the first towards the head of the Greenstone. Had dinner there. About a mile further on came to the saddle, when we got the water falling the opposite way, followed down for about a mile and a half and came to another smaller lake, when we took the bush, keeping the lake to our right. We found two blazed tracks, one leading up over the hill and the other following along the lake. I kept the latter, the others took the former, which they followed for some time. After exchanging "cooeys," they came down and joined me. Mine turned out to be the right track. We camped at the lower end of the lake. Sunday, 16th.—Got underway early, and soon came to a cut track going up over Emu ranges for a short distance, which we kept till 3 p.m., when we came on to a large, or the main, branch coming from the western mountains. The track terminated at the junction. We crossed the river, but could not get along on account of precipices, consequently we went back, and travelled about two miles further down, but could see nothing of a track; and after humbugging up and down for a considerable time, I found a ford half a mile below the junction, when we crossed and camped all night. Young was nearly taken down the stream. I crossed first, and held a long pole, so that the others could reach it at about the deepest. We caught a kakapo and a kiwi soon after crossing the saddle. Monday, 17th.—Started about 9 a.m., and followed down along the western side. Saw blazed trees at about noon. Camped about 3 p.m., when it began to rain, with strong N.W. gale. Saw several good fording places this morning. Tuesday, 18th.—Fine clear morning, but had been raining heavily all night. Dried our traps, and started about 10 o'clock. At 2 p.m. passed James Davis's grave, and saw the place where he fell, while travelling late, when trying to make the lake, but did not succeed. There are several old camps on the grass flat on which we are camped. We have had a very good blazed track all day. Our provisions are getting rather short, and we have had no game worth speaking about. Wednesday, December, 19th.—Fine fair weather. The dog caught six kakapos to-day, on which we made supper, intending to save our flour till we saw the lake. Passed some large tributaries from the western mountains. Travelled late, and camped alongside the main river. Thursday, 20th.—Fine clear morning; had breakfast upon kakapo, and made the lake about 10 a.m., but unfortunately no dingy. I had been told by Dick, on the Orepuki, that she had been made fast where the track terminates or commences at the head of the lake above the influence of the river. We

a billy of tea and commenced to make a raft, as there was no timber handy for a canoe. We had only about 10lbs flour, 4lbs sugar, and 5lbs or 6.bs oatmeal, and the little dog is within a few days of having pups, and nothing to shoot - consequently we shall have to look sharp. Raining heavily all this afternoon, with heavy westerly swell on the lake. Friday, 21st.—Thick and foggy, with rain and N.E. gale. The frame of the raft is all chafed to pieces. I finished two oars, a sweep, and a steer oar to-day, and got timber and flax ready for to-morrow. One small dumpling each to-day. Saturday, 22nd.—Got the raft all ready about 3 p.m. with mast and a lly rigged for a sail. Had one kaka among the four of us. Got everything on board and started about 5 p.m. with a nasty drizzling rain and thick weather. We could pull about a mile and a half an hour, and we were pulling hard till nearly dark, when we got a breeze down the gorge, and made sail with the increasing breeze, keeping the north (? east) side of the lake. Sunday, 23rd.—About 1 a.m. everyone got so stiff and cold, that we came to under the lee of a point. We boiled the billy, and each had a pannikin of gruel. Had a spell and then started again. During the squalls the sail was split two or three times, though we hove it down each time. The raft sailed well though the sea made a clean breach over her. We landed about half a mile from the sea about sunrise, and were very thankful for having made so quick a passage. Had the last feed, and started for the store in Big Bay, which we reached about 5 p.m. Met Lind on the beach, who was very glad to see us. Had a feed and turned in, being very tired. Fine clear day. Monday, 24th.—Lind tells us there is a rush at the Haast, in Jackson's Bay, where there are about 50 miners, who are doing well. Tuesday, 25th.—Made up our minds to proceed towards the Haast to-morrow. Clear, with S.W. breeze. Wednesday, 26th.—Made an early start, but being rather stiff we only got to within two miles of the Gorge, where we camped. Weather clear, with S.W. breeze. Thursday, 27th.—Started early and got to Steep Head, when it began to rain, and we camped. Friday, 28th.—Continued raining till about 6 a.m., when we rolled up and started. Got round Steep Head, it being low water. We made the hut at Barn Bay at about 4 p.m., but I had much difficulty in doing so, having sprained my foot soon after getting round Steep Head. Saturday, December 29.—N.E., with thick and foggy weather and rain. We did not start that afternoon. Had a shift, with a southwest gale, and it cleared up. December 30.—W.S.W. gale, with heavy showers all day. Got a payable prospect in the black sand on the beach. Power offered to go to Big Bay for provisions. Neither Young nor Fred would go along with him, and, for my part, I cannot, my foot being so bad. Monday, 31st.—Weather similar to yesterday. Young tried about one small bucketful of sand in an old cradle, from which I got nearly 1dwt. The cradle is all to pieces. My foot is still very bad. Tuesday, January 1st.—Thick and foggy, with rain. Caught a large eel last night, which we had two good feeds off. Harry offers to go back for more provisions, as our tea and sugar are done, and not much flour left, provided anyone will go with him. My foot being so sore that it is a matter of impossibility for me to go, and none of the others will, consequently, if there are no provisions at Jackson's, we shall be in a fine fix. I determined to try it towards Jackson's to-morrow. Wednesday, January 2nd, 1867.—Strong N.W. gale with rain till about 4 p.m., when it cleared up with a shift S.W. We have only three or four feeds of flour left, no tea or sugar, and nothing to be shot. Thursday 3rd.—Made an early start and got to Cascade river before noon, when we made a raft and crossed about four p.m. all safe. Camped alongside the river. Got some birds before dark. Friday, 4th.—Raining too much to start, shot some birds, and made a start about one p.m. When it cleared up had to bring up on the road and make some dumplings. The boys being so

weak, they are not able to travel. Camped about two miles from the beach on the north side of Cascade. Saturday, 5th.—Fine and clear. Reached Omiru early, where we camped and caught some fish, and also fossicked out some potatoes. We have only as much flour left as will make one small dumpling each. Sunday, 6th.—Started at daylight to catch the tide at low water, to get round a bad place between low and high water; had breakfast at the latter. I went along the old track, the others went another way. I got to Jackson's first, but no stores nor anything to be seen. My little bitch had pups in Burn Bay, and having very little to eat is so weak that she is not able to hunt. The rain coming down in torrents all day. Gathered a billyful of mussels (the largest not so big as the head of an ordinary pipe), which we had for supper. Monday, 7th.—I have commenced to make a dingy to catch fish with, out of old boards that are knocking about. Had to go for mussels in the afternoon. They are very scarce, and there is no game. We felt nearly certain to find plenty of stores here. Tuesday, 8th.—Fine fair weather, with a heavy swell on. I finished the dingy, all that I could do to her, having nothing but a tomahawk. I got nails out of the old stores and places about the head of the bay. Harry Power and I took our swags and tools, and started in the dingy for the Terawiti; but unfortunately she sprung a leak, and Harry not being able to keep her clear with the tin dish, had to beach in a nasty surf, halfway between the head of the bay and the river. I got ashore all safe and hauled her up. Camped abreast of the mussels, as they are the only things we have here to depend on. We have got to go up to our armpits in the surf for them—sometimes overhead. We are all getting weak on it, and we have only three or four charges of powder left. While we were caulking the dingy, I saw a sail off Open Bay Island, and put on two large fires about 100 yards apart. Got the dingy all right, intending to carry her to the river to-morrow. Kept on a large fire all night. Rained all night. We are all getting weak on it. Wednesday, 9th.—Foggy weather and light breeze. Had a few mussels each, then started. Carried the dingy down to the river, swell being too high to take her over the bar. Then brought down our swags. When we had everything ready for crossing the river, we saw the schooner standing in towards the head of the bay. I started with a handkerchief on a pole, Young followed. Ran as fast as I was able, and got to the head of the bay just as she dropped anchor. A boat soon came off and took us on board, when we had a good feed. She proved to be the Glengarry, from Hokitika, bound to the Haast, with 50 diggers and Mr Donovan, a storekeeper. Everyone was very kind. I offered to take her into the Haast, provided the master would give me and my mates a passage, as they did not know the river. He said he would give me a passage but would charge the others. Consequently I and my mates went on board. Thursday, 10th.—Fine clear morning, with S.W. breeze, got underway at about 8 a.m. I took her inside the islands. Got from a quarter less three to five fathoms between Rocky Point and the reef south of the islands near the mouth of the Haast. About 10 a.m. I went aloft and had a look at the river. Saw two channels, the best to appearance southward. Stood off with strong increasing breeze till 11, then put about and stood in the South Channel. Got her in first rate. Great cheering and hurrahing after we got in.

"ANDREW H. WILLIAMSON."

It appears from the foregoing diary, that Williamson and his party came from the south along the Waiau and Mararoa rivers, striking the Greenstone river at its southernmost point, where it is joined by the Pass burn. They then found Arthur's blazed track on the east bank of the river, although whether they crossed at Arthur's ford, or whether they proceeded further down the Hollyford before crossing, is not quite clear. From conversation with Williamson, who is an intelligent and well-informed man, and

thorough bushman, I am inclined to think they found one of the numerous fords practicable in dry weather higher up. After receiving and reading the diary, I employed the remainder of the evening in packing up my swag, and taking tracings of the route from the Hollyford crossing to Lake Harris, as drawn by Mr M'Kerrow, and the remainder of the route from the large map of the district in the survey office. I did not take a tracing of the route up the Hollyford, as my instructions were, as I thought, explicit on the subject, to follow Arthur's track up the river about 12 miles, until I came to the first island after the embouchure of Pyke's Creek, where I should find, after crossing, the remains of a Maori whare, a short distance down the river, and two marked trees at the point of departure from it. From what I subsequently learned, however, Mr M'Kerrow and his party had merely come down the range from Lake Harris, crossed the river, and from seeing an island above, and a blazed line on each side of them, had supposed this to be Arthur's Ford, which it in reality was not, but one five or six miles higher up. It was marked on the map as being at Arthur's Ford; and this, together with the impression that I had only to go twelve miles up the river, led to some confusion, and considerable loss of time.

THE UPPER LAKE.

On Wednesday morning, the 16th March, after an early breakfast, I started in the small boat, accompanied by Kleber, who was to go with me as far as the ford. The morning was raw and showery, and the wind being dead against us, our progress up the lake was necessarily very slow, nor was it until nearly noon that we entered the mouth of the Hollyford, that river flowing into the lake at what may be called its south-west corner. In pulling from side to side of the lake in order to get shelter under the various headlands, I had a good opportunity of inspecting it on both shores, and can safely report that after leaving the flat land just above Hokuri Creek on the east, and that below the remarkable water-course I have mentioned on the west side, there is no more land available for cultivation until the extreme head of the lake is reached, a distance of ten miles. The mountains on each side are rugged and rocky, running almost precipitously down to the water's edge, and although there is, here and there, a small extent of shingle beach, any road made along the banks of this part of the lake would have necessarily to be made in the form of a sideling at a great elevation. There were numerous large outcrops of bare rock in the sides of the hills, or rather mountains, for, on the west side in particular, several of the peaks reached beyond the snow line, and in some places I saw indications of what might possibly be limestone, although from the distance it was impossible to judge. The general formation is a greenish and greyish porphyritic rock, with occasional beds of quartzose granite containing felspar and laminæ of pearly mica. The bases of these mountains are covered with timber, principally birch, which does not attain any great size, although at a higher elevation there are belts of fine large rata, and still further up, birch, becoming gradually smaller until it deteriorates into nothing better than birch scrub intermingled with patches of dwarf box. Beyond this again is coarse grass and widely-spreading beds of moss. Speaking generally, the upper part of the lake is practically useless, the only available portions for agricultural purposes and the purposes of settlement, being the lower end for a distance of, say, three miles from the mouth. This available land extends, however—it must not be forgotten—very nearly the whole way down the Lower Hollyford (the Kaduku of Dr Hector), a further distance of about three miles on the east side, and two on the west, the remaining distance on that side being taken up by the sandspit. At the head of the lake, and on the west side, are several fine creeks which come tumbling down the sides of the precipitous hills with great noise and fury, and a tremendous land-slip cannot fail to attract the attention. Thousands

on thousands of blocks of granitic gneiss, now worn into boulders by the continual rush of flood water and melted snow, lie here in inextricable confusion, intermingled with trunks of fallen trees, and patches of scrub on the prominent heaps. The landslip exposes a matrix rock of chloritic schist passing into clay slate, immense masses of which are washed into the lake by every flood. The scenery of the lake is beautiful in the extreme, and is as varied as it is beautiful. The lower end presents, in fine weather, an aspect of calm and peaceful loveliness, such as is rarely to be seen, the tiny wavelets shimmering in the sunshine, and lapping gently on the white shingle, the dark and massive primeval forest spreading away to the feet of the distant hills on either hand, form a picture of tranquil beauty to which the rugged hills and towering snow peaks to the south add the charm of wild and *bizarre* contrast. Farther up the lake, and only to be seen in the fulness of its grandeur when the sky is lowering, the scene is one of terrible and gloomy grandeur. Shut in between those everlasting walls of granite, whose white scalps stand out glaringly against the blackness above, and moving over a restless sea of shining darkness, amidst a silence that can almost be felt, the sensations are those of awe and terror rather than pleasure. The extreme head of the lake is again of a different character. The view from here is almost Alpine in character, for from the low-lying land which is found at the mouth of the river may be seen many of the lofty peaks, crowned with glaciers and robed in eternal snow, which fringe the valley of the Upper Hollyford. On nearing this portion of the lake, it will be found that the ranges gradually recede, leaving a tolerably wide tract of undulating and much broken country, which increases in width and flatness as we go farther up the river. Just within the precincts of the bush land which borders a wide shingle beach at this spot, I found a whare, constructed of logs and roofed with grass and reeds. This place is in excellent preservation, and affords capital shelter to any person camping there. The river enters the lake by two arms, which diverge about a mile and a half higher up, and which form a large flat island covered with coarse grass and low scrub, with a few tolerably-sized birch trees growing upon it. On this island it was intended, some years ago, to establish a Goverment township, and a surveyor was sent from Dunedin to lay one out, but he found that the choice of site had been made without due consideration, as it was evident from the marks on the trees, and the drift wood lying on its highest points, that in seasons of heavy flood it was liable to submersion, and the idea was given up in consequence. Notwithstanding this, it is clear that when the settlement at Martin's Bay becomes established, a small township will have to be settled in this neighbourhood, on the flat at the mouth of the western arm, probably, where there is every convenience, unless the road should come down the eastern bank of the river, inasmuch as the passage by water down the lake is a much more expeditious, easier, and in every way preferable one to any road that could possibly be made by land. The main arm of the river is the western one, that to the east of the island dwindling to a mere shallow streamlet in dry weather, and the former may be known by the general term of the river. The passage from the river proper to its fall into the lake forms a semicircle about two miles in length, and is very deep and rapid on its outer or western side farthest from the island. So rapid is it that, inasmuch as boats going up it must be kept some distance from the eastern bank on account of the shallows, there is great difficulty in navigating it, and only by towing boats up can they make headway against the current. The western bank is precipitous, and rises to a height varying from ten to fifty feet from the level of the water. It consists of gravel and clay, with a tolerably thick layer of good soil on the surface, and is timbered with fine large birch, pine, kowhai, and totara, and overgrown with thick fern and supple-

jack, some of the former attaining gigantic proportions, and being of the rarest as well as the commonest kinds. In particular I noticed specimens of the Aspidium fern, and of a peculiar dwarf fern (Trichomanes reniformis) whose fronds were of a brilliant red colour, and which lay in dense beds of a quarter of an acre in extent. The flat land here cuts appears gradually to sink as it recedes from the river banks, so that at a distance of, say, half a mile, the ground becomes swampy, and a dense and intricate bush of scrub and lawyers takes the place of the larger timber. Beyond this region of swamp, which extends for perhaps a mile, and which is intersected now and again by belts of good-sized birch and kowhai, the land rises again over a slightly elevated space from the northern end of the Darran range, and falls into a deep and well-wooded valley lying between that and another spur still farther inland. The whole of this country is rough, but the soil is of good quality, and it is well watered by numerous small streams. At the entrance of the river into the lake, the stream divides itself into two currents. One flows with great rapidity through a narrow channel between the western beach and a shingle bank, which stretches about a quarter of a mile across the lake, and the other turning off in a south easterly direction inside the shingle bank into a shallow cove in the north end of the island. The beach of this cove is covered with immense masses of driftwood, proving that with a violent north wind blowing, and in time of flood, the main current of the river must turn round this way. On our arrival at the head of the lake we proceeded first of all to the island, with the intention of passing through the east channel, if possible. We found this impracticable, however, partly from [illegible] barely navigable, and partly on [illegible] of several huge trees having fallen [illegible] barring up the passage. We [illegible] time here looking for a passage, [illegible]ing up the creek, and I along [illegible] to look for an opening. While waiting for Kleber's return to the boat, I tried a prospect of a few handsful of beach sand, but did not get the colour. I found, however, several pieces of greenstone (nephrite), but of inferior quality. Finding the eastern passage impracticable, we had dinner, and started for the western or main one. We rowed as far as possible, and when we could no longer stem the current, got into the water and hauled the boat up the stream. After proceeding in this way about half a mile along the east, or island, bank, we got into the boat and rowed over to a small creek on the opposite side. Up this creek we went for about twenty yards, and then made the boat fast. In this creek, I saw several flounders of moderate size— the first large fish I had seen either in the lake or the river. We first landed on the south side of the creek, but soon found it to be a small islet in the river, and therefore crossed to the other side, where we made fast, and prepared for a start. Close by this spot we found the camp where Captain Thomson and Mr Thomson had rested and turned back when they and Messrs Page and Welsh started to convey the intelligence of the mishap to the Charles Edward to Queenstown. This place is about a mile distant from the camp at the entrance to the river. The road is very much broken and rocky, and is intersected by two rapidly running, though narrow, creeks.

THE FIRST CAMP.

Here we commenced our land journey, crossing a small watercourse, and keeping off to the right of the river in order to avoid the dense fern and intricate supple-jack which faced us at the outset. Little did we know the grief we were bringing ourselves to by doing so, for in keeping in the clearer land we insensibly edged away further and further from the river, until we had between it and us a tolerably lofty spur running north and south from the Darran Range. After going along the western part of this for two or three miles, it struck me that we had better make the river, so as to see where we were, and accordingly taking a

S.E. direction by compass, we commenced to clamber up the spur. This itself, with our swags, was no joke, but when, after crossing it, we found ourselves up to the ankles in swamp, the matter became still more unpleasant. However, there was nothing for it but to persevere, and crossing the swamp we entered a thick bush of scrubby birch and undergrowth which in its turn gave way to another swamp still deeper than the first. Keeping to the south-east, a course which, while it brought us nearer to the river, still took us on our way, we crossed the second swamp and entered a birch forest more open and better than the previous one. By this time the sun had gone down behind the hills, and a slight fall of rain, which had lasted intermittently throughout the day, came on steadily. Here, therefore, under the shelter of two immense birches, we determined to camp. We lit a fire between the two trees, piled on plenty of wood, and presently had a splendid blaze. We then got supper, and rolling ourselves in our rugs were soon asleep, despite the rain and the loss of so much time. By midnight the rain cleared off, the stars began to peep out, and the moon, which was nearly full, showed herself from amongst the clouds. I made up the fire, which was beginning to burn low, and whilst thinking what a Rembrantesque picture the whole affair would make, fell off to sleep again. Waking in the grey dawn, we boiled the billy and had breakfast, starting as soon as it was properly light. We still kept to the south-east, passing through a heavily timbered region of pine and birch, with excellent soil, and occasional outcrops of immense blocks of quartz, in which, however, I failed to detect gold. After about two hours hard walking, and after crossing another swamp with its concomitants of thick scrub and tangled lawyers, we saw the welcome glitter of the river through the foliage. We were of course unaware how far along the river we had got, but I afterwards found that with all our hard work we had, in reality, only made about three miles progress. After a short rest on the river bank, which here consists of a terrace about ten feet above the level of the river, overhanging a shelving boulder bank which runs for about a mile, we started again. We preferred the terrace, which was tolerably open bush with good timber, and presently reached the first of three shingle-bedded creeks all within half-a-mile, and flowing from a lofty conical peak reaching an altitude of over 7000 feet, and marked on the map as Tutoko peak. Up to this place, after crossing the first of these creeks, which we forded about knee deep, but which in flood and in hot weather must be very dangerous to cross, as they are all fed by the snow melting in the ranges, we kept along the beach, occasionally having to dip into the bush, which was very thickly wooded, and consisted of level flats about a mile in width, but after passing the third we came to a bend in the river where the deep water ran along our (the western) side, and we had to take the bush for it. We got into an open fern country with immense timber, white, black, and red pine, totara, birch, moka-moka, and kowhai, with moderately high fern, and an undergrowth of supple-jack, veronica, hini-hini, laurel, and a kind of alder, bearing red berries, much liked by the kakas and pigeons, the undergrowth being very thick near the river bank; and after a little distance came to a creek running in a deep bed, which in wet weather must be a formidable one to cross, as it evidently overflows its banks and spreads to a great width over a flat on its north side. This was the creek which, being in flood at the time Messrs Page and Welsh tried to get overland, prevented their going further, and from which they had to retrace their steps. They skirted the creek for some distance up its northern bank, but could find no place to cross at, although they went up to the foot of a rather precipitous rise, through which it has cut a deep channel. We traced it up about a quarter of a mile, and found a crossing over a fallen tree, which reached scarcely across, and after a jump over the intervening distance, and a clamber up the steep and lofty bank, found ourselves

in a thickly scrubbed patch, which improved as we made for the south-east, and again neared the river. Crossing several smaller creeks, generally at their mouths, where they are, as a rule, easiest to be got over, and travelling sometimes through heavily-timbered country with excellent soil, sometimes forcing our way through dense patches of undergrowth, occasionally striking Arthur's blazed line, which from being overgrown with ferns and bushes we as often lost again, and sometimes taking advantage of the shingle beaches, we came to a bend in the river where there was a long reach of shallow sandy bottom, extending for about a mile under the shelving bank of the west side of the river.

BLACK SAND.

This shallow reach we kept along, sometimes wading, the water not reaching much above our ankles, and sometimes getting an opportunity to walk on narrow beds of dry beach. Here our attention was attracted by the large quantity of black sand which lay along the margin of the river, and we halted for the purpose of examining it. We found it to be very fine and heavy, and to contain vast quantities of sparkling scaly yellow mica. We tried it for gold several times, but although I examined it minutely with my magnifying glass I could find in it nothing more valuable than the scales of mica, some of which were very large, being as much as a quarter of an inch across. I filled a match-box with the sand, intending to get it tried on my arrival in town, but unfortunately lost it, together with a number of other things, through my coat pocket being torn open in the scrub the following day. Kleber promised to take a pannikin full of it to the camp on his return, but, as he afterwards informed me, he missed the place on his way back, as, indeed, so did I. Whether, therefore, the stuff be of any value as auriferous deposit, I know not, but that it is black sand, and of the same kind as the beach sand in which gold is frequently, though not always, found, there can be no doubt. In all probability, it will be tested ere long, and if it be found to contain even an infinitesimal quantity of the precious metal, it will at once be a proof of the gold-bearing character of the Hollyford Valley.

GRASSY FLATS.

Coming to another deep and rather wide creek, we struck into the bush again, which at this place ran in two distinct terraces, the lower one being rather narrow, not more than a hundred yards in width, about seven or eight feet above the level of the river, and timbered with mangrove and other swamp scrub, and the upper one forming a tolerably level flat about fifty feet high, perhaps half a mile wide to the foot of the ranges, and wooded with fine large trees of the character general in the region, and found a fo·d a little way up it. At this place, the river runs in a fine wide noble looking stream, both banks running back in well timbered flats for a considerable distance. In fact, from what I could observe, from the side of the river where I was, there appeared to me to be on the opposite or east side a splendid tract of level country, not less than a mile in width and four or five miles in length, commencing in fact about a mile above the island at the head of the lake, and stretching along to beyond where I was, where I could see that a spur of the ranges running down to the river closed it in. After crossing the creek, and proceeding some little distance, the river took a long sweeping bend, spreading out to a considerable width, and having a large shingle bank in the middle, with very deep water on the west side. Here the level of the country began to descend, and the character of the timber to change, the alder and white willow which fringed the river bank being replaced by birch scrub and lawyer bushes, and the trees to grow smaller and gradually to become more scrubby. This induced us to leave the river and gradually to seek the more open country further back, until presently we were brought to a standstill by an almost impenetrable jungle of lawyers and dense thicket. We tried to get round this

but found that the deeper we penetrated into the bush the worse it became, and that there was nothing for it but to force our way through. This we did for two or three hundred yards, at the expense of scratched hands and sundry rents in our nether integumen's, when we found ourselves in a long but rather narrow flat thickly overgrown with deep swamp grass, and bordered on the river side by a dense belt of tall flax bushes. The sun showing that it was nearly noon, we halted to repair damages here, strips of flax coming in admirably in lieu of needles and thread. Taking deep draughts of the pure fresh sparkling river water, and lolling at full length on the soft bed of swamp grass, however pleasant, did not, we found, help us on our way, and as we determined to defer our mid-day meal until we were further on, we plunged once more into the tangled scrub, and passing another, but smaller grassy flat, we tore our way as we best could through the tangle. These flats are evidently covered with water in times of high flood, as, although they were perfectly dry when we were there, they bore traces of being in a swampy state for a great portion of the year. After crossing them, we were insensibly led by the character of the scrub, further and further away from the river, and had a hard fight through the stiff thorny brake in which we found ourselves to regain it. I afterwards found that we made an egregious mistake in dipping into the bush at this point, as along the edge of the river this troublesome thicket only extended for a hundred yards or so, when the land rose out of the depression, and again became open forest with no greater hindrance to free walking, than fallen trees, ferns, supple jacks, and occasional reminder in the form of an

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we should scramble. On my second journey over this precipice I found that there was a blazed track which led along a tolerably easy road, but this time we found no track, and had to get over it the best way we could. It was no easy matter, let me tell you, and much of our passage was occupied in, to use a conventional phrase, hanging on by our eyelids. If scrambling up nearly perpendicular banks, sliding down others with a chance of the fern roots or supple jacks by which we held on, giving way, and letting us down further than we intended going, climbing up the face of one rock and slipping down the back of another, were getting over difficulties in the orthodox way, then we were right, but after all it was not pleasant; far from it. This precipice extended about a quarter of a mile, and brought us to a tolerably wide creek, with another smaller creek falling into it, about a hundred yards from its mouth. Both of these we forded, the smaller one up to our knees in mud, and the larger one lower down over a bed of hard blue sand. We might, however, have saved ourselves the trouble of getting over the latter, as we found a little further on that it was merely an ana branch of the river, and that we had to recross at the entrance as we had crossed at the mouth. From this we got into fine open forest with excellent timber and soil, and presently came out to a nice wide sandy beach, with a low well defined shingle island in the middle of the river, and high terraces with perpendicular banks, showing two or three feet of soil over gravel and clay on the opposite side. This told us that we were approaching the mouth of Pyke's Creek, and here, seated in a narrow grassy flat, we had dinner. Our meal consisted of biscuit, butter, cheese, and German sausage, washed down with copious draughts from the river, the water of which is, I think, the best I ever tasted. Clear, cold, and wonderfully refreshing, I thought I should never be tired quaffing it; nor do I think I ever drank so much water in my life in the same space of time, as I did along the banks of the Upper Hollyford. Ill-

natured people might suggest that it was because I could get nothing else. After dinner, when the ashes of the post-prandial pipe were knocked out, we resumed our journey, passing the mouth of Pyke's Creek, which is a fine wide stream, with a tolerably large island near its mouth and visible from the river, flowing in a southerly direction out of Lake Alabaster, through a deep gorge which forms the division between the Skippers and Ailsa ranges. This creek is the great impediment in the way of a track on the east side of the river, as although it may be forded in a few places when its waters are low, it is totally impassable when there is the slightest flood. It pours a large volume of water into the Hollyford, and the river is perceptibly smaller above than below it. Above Pyke's creek we took the bush again, finding fine open country, with large timber and good soil as before. The land hereabouts is of excellent quality, and these river flats would, I should judge, grow anything, provided that they were properly cleared. The great difficulty in the way of their becoming settled is not, however, so much the clearing, as the timber itself would be highly valuable if saw mills were established, as the want of roads, the river, from the numerous falls and rapids, being practically useless as a means of transit. After walking through generally flat country for about three hours, and crossing several creeks, some by fording, others by means of fallen trees, frequently finding the blazed track, and as frequently missing it, we came to another and longer precipice than the one we had passed in the forenoon. Here, however, the track was well blazed, and we got over with comparative ease. Descending rapidly round the southern face of the cliff we came, after passing a small scrubby plateau, on a fine creek flowing over shingle and small boulders. Thinking from the direction which this stream appeared to come from, and the character of the scrub on the opposite bank, tutu and dwarf birch, that it might be another branch of the river, we tracked the bed up for two or three hundred yards, but soon found that it diverged to the westward towards the base of the range, about half a mile distant from this point. We therefore climbed up the bank, and striking into the scrub soon found ourselves on the edge of a belt of foul brown swamp, which we had to cross, and which took us nearly up to the knees, emitting a most disagreeable stench at every plunge we made into it. This appearing to become deeper the further we went south-east, we changed our route, taking a north-easterly direction, and making for where some clumps of larger timber told us the ground was firmer. It was a very tedious task getting through, for at every step we were almost overpowered by the odour, to say nothing of having to force our way through a kind of harsh tea-tree scrub which barred our way like stiff palisading. By dint of perseverance we, however, reached the river bank, having lost some time by our mistake, and being thoroughly tired, we determined to camp at the next beach we came to. Proceeding about a quarter of a mile further we descended a small ravine, crossed a creek with a soft bottom, and came on a spot where a bend in the river had formed a tolerably large sandbank.

THE SECOND CAMP.

On this sandbank, upon whose more elevated portions there were some small patches of coarse grass and toi-toi, we decided to camp, being, as nearly as we could judge, and following the bends of the river, about ten miles above the head of the lake, although from our numerous detours, and from the mistakes of the previous day, we had travelled very much further than that. The spot we had selected was, although a well sheltered one, not a very pleasant place to sleep in, for the sandflies and the dampness of the sand, rendered our night's rest, or rather unrest, the antipodes of comfortable. It was a very pretty place to look at, nevertheless. The opposite bank rose with a steep slope to a terrace about a hundred feet high, and down the bank

flowed a small creek, forming three or four miniature waterfalls. We found abundance of driftwood on the sandbank, and soon had a splendid fire. After making the tea and partaking of a hearty meal, we composed ourselves to sleep, but the night was cold, the coldest I had experienced since I had landed in Martin's Bay, and our slumber was broken and unrefreshing. Mine was at least, for I was awake a great portion of the night, keeping up the fire, and thereby obtaining some degree of warmth. It was a fine clear night, the moon and stars shining with great brilliancy. During the night I heard the fall of a distant glacier down one of the lofty peaks which we were rapidly approaching. It broke the stillness of the night with a strange weird unearthly sound, a rumble, and then a crash, "not loud, but deep." Towards morning, having taken my faithful dog for a pillow, I got some sleep, awaking at early dawn, and replenishing the fire. My travelling companion awoke shortly afterwards, and rather surprised me with the intelligence that he would not go any further. He was tired, he said, and did not like the idea of going so far back alone. I was not so much surprised either, for he had hinted at the advisability of turning back more than once on the previous day. No doubt he deemed, and rightly deemed, that travelling along the valley of the Hollyford was not so pleasant as being at the camp on the lake. When he imparted this cheerful intelligence, I did not say much, but, like the sailor's parrot, I thought a great deal. I told him that I should go on alone, and arranged that he ...uld come up to the head of the lake on ...lowing Monday night (this being ...g, the 18th March), so that ...g the ford I might ...e boat. We ...rted—he on ...er up the ...in two

into the bush. Finding it very thick and scrubby, and much overgrown with lawyers, I committed the same error as I had done on the previous day, and left the river bank for what appeared to be more open country further inland. I crossed a creek, and began to get into soft spongy soil, the country being, however, insidiously open and tempting. Presently, I found myself brought up in the middle of a swamp of the character of the one I had had to wade through the previous day, although I had not got quite so deeply into it. Up to this point I had come in what I fondly imagined was a tolerably straight line, my intention being when I started to skirt the thick scrub, and fall oft to the south-east, when I got amongst better timber. I found, however, that "The best laid schemes of mice and men, gang aft aglee," for on appealing to my compass, I found that I had diverged from my line, and was making a nice little tour to the north-west. There was plenty of flat country, and if I had gone on, I might probably have found myself, towards night, somewhere about where I started from. I tried back for the creek, intending to follow it down, but finding that it turned off to the north-east, and as I did not care about losing any more ground, left it, and struck to the south-east, looking frequently at my compass, and being thereby much edified at the extraordinary manner in which I persisted in bearing off to the westward of my course. This was, after all, not greatly to be wondered at, as the further eastward I went the thicker and more unpleasant became the birch scrub and tea tree. Presently I got again into the region of large timber, and thick lawyer bush, and after forcing my way through this to the serious detriment of my already somewhat tattered apparel, I found a tolerably open terrace on the bank of the river, and to my great joy fell across the blazed track. Inwardly vowing that I would leave the river bank no more unless the track led me away from it, I proceeded on my way rejoicing. Here I made unto myself the following maxim, which I cordially

recommend to the attention of travellers in the New Zealand bush. Perhaps it is not original, but whether it be or no, I think it deserves inscribing in letters of gold—Keep to the blazed track, and if you cannot do that, don't lose sight of the river. This misadventure gave me a good three hours' useless tramp, but it gave me a lesson. In this locality there appears to be a vast tract of swamp lying back from the river, caused, I imagine, not by any overflow of the river itself, but by the drainage from the mountains falling on perfectly flat land, or land even having a backward fall, and it is not improbable that there are large lagoons at the foot of the hills, in wet seasons at least. The creeks flowing through this district are sluggish and discoloured, as if they came through peat, and form deep pools in the bends of their tortuous courses. The opposite side of the river is precipitous, and the river itself flows silently in a broad, blue glassy stream. It has a smooth pebbly bottom, and could easily be forded at almost any point, for a good mile.

A MORAINE.

Beyond this, however, the character of the scene changes altogether, there being a large moraine extending for about half a mile up the stream, the debris consisting of immense blocks of granitic gneiss and rugged boulders, between which the water pours and boils in an impetuous torrent, and with a sound like thunder. Beyond the lower end of this, supposing it even to be possible to get a small boat up, by dint of dragging her over the numerous falls and rapids, it would be hopeless to think of navigation. Above it there are numerous pretty reaches, but none of any great length, the falls becoming more frequent and severe as the upper part of the river is approached. Above the moraine, I appeared to have got quite out of the swampy land, and to have come once more upon good well-timbered country.

GLACIERS.

Along the bank of the river I found several extensive beaches, consisting generally of small, open, sandy flats, overgrown with coarse grass, toi-toi, and tutu, and bordered along the edge of the river with shingle and boulders. At the end of one of these I crossed a pretty wide creek flowing from the mountains, and evidently, from the coldness of the water, proceeding from the melted snow in the ranges. At this point I got the first clear view of the glaciers, lying in the hollows and crevices of the snow peaks. Some of them are of immense size, and present, in the sunshine, a most beautiful appearance. One of them lying in an immense rift in one of the loftiest peaks was particularly striking. It was almost square in form, and in the centre, and springing from its base, was an opening exactly in the form of a Norman arch, from which a foaming cataract fell down the apparently perpendicular side of the mountain, being probably the head water of the creek I was crossing. Beyond this creek, the country ran off into wide flats on both sides the river—that on the west being timbered with immense trees, and containing excellent land. Passing several small mountain streams, and one tolerably large one, over which I got by means of a fallen tree, I came to a smaller moraine, which, however, did not extend to any great distance, and beyond this, arrived at an extensive beach, consisting, like the previous one, of a sandy flat with grass, toi-toi, and tutu, and a margin of shingle.

CROSSING THE RIVER.

From the appearance of this place, which appeared to correspond in all respects save one, namely, the precipices on the west bank, with my chart, there was a shingle bank on both sides, a large tree about a hundred and fifty yards down the channel (for the matter of that, it would be difficult to find a place where there was not a large tree in the river, if we except some of the reaches), and what appeared to be an island about three hundred yards higher up than the tree. The precipice was not there, it is true; but, and "the wish was father to the

thought," I imagined that Mr M'Kerrow might have meant by the precipices, the snow peaks beyond the flat, which were precipitous enough in all conscience. Here, thought I, is my place, and here must I cross. Certainly the ford did not seem to be a very tempting one—not deep, but very rapid. It was, in fact, one of the falls I have referred to, a slight one, but sufficiently strong to make one think twice before crossing it. I cut a stout tutu branch for a pole, and after carefully balancing my swag proceeded to ford. I chose a place at the upper end of the bank where the stream was divided into two parts by a bed of shingle. Crossing the first part of the stream without any difficulty, I essayed the second part, where the water was deeper, and the current more rapid. The passage was a difficult, and, I may say, a dangerous one, and it was only by the most strenuous efforts that I kept my feet, when in the full strength of the current. The water in the deepest part reached nearly to my hips, but as I had my swag well stowed, and carried it high, nothing in it got wet. I got safely over, but oh, my poor trousers! I had tied them round with flax before going into the water, but the force of the current getting inside, through the numerous rents, burst their bonds, and them at the same time, and I emerged from the stream with one of their legs bound tightly round me, and the other split up from the bottom to above the knee. I could not forbear laughing as I surveyed my dilapidated garments, flying loose, and tied together with strings, and thought of walking down Princes street in that guise. My dog swam over the river, landing at a point very much lower down than where he entered; and I, leaving my swag on the beach, proceeded to survey the place where I had landed.

A DISAPPOINTMENT.

My first care was to find out whether what I had taken to be an island was really one or not; for, after all, I had a lingering doubt as to whether I had got to the right spot. I tracked up the large and rapid stream I conceived to be the eastern branch of the river, and found that it diverged into five streams, flowing through a wide basin of shingle and sand, and coming from one common head about a quarter of a mile distant. This stream appeared to flow from the southward, and as the river above the falls made a bend to the east, I concluded that I should presently come to the separation of the two branches. Conceive my disappointment then, when coming to an almost perpendicular mountain about half a mile from where I had crossed, I found that the stream I was tracking flowed out of a large deep rocky pool formed by a lofty cataract which came thundering down a hidden precipice. Disappointed as I was, I stood for some moments entranced by the scene. The creek, it might almost be dignificd wi h the name of river, is one, unnamed, which, as I afterwards found, flows from a small lake in the ranges, some distance north of Lake Harris, and runs down a narrow gorge in the mountains until it falls over a wall of rock, reaching the valley in which I stood by a succession of leaps, the lower one of which must be at least a hundred and fifty feet high, and which raises a spray that at a distance exactly resembles smoke. The sun was shining when I saw it, and the frowning precipice, the foaming cataract, and the prismatic hues of the cloud of spray rising from the rocky bottom, presented such a picture as I shall not easily forget.

THE THIRD CAMP.

Gazing at waterfalls, however, would not mend matters, so I returned to the beach, and moving over to the south side of the creek, found [illegible] grassy spot, and lit a fire of drift[illegible] there was plenty scatter[illegible] had not had any [illegible]nd, then [illegible]e free [illegible]ake,

for about a mile, and came out in the basin through which the creek ran. I looked carefully for blazes or marks of any kind but could find none, and concluded that I was the first visitor to the spot. On my return to my fire, I determined to camp for the night, although I might have made a mile or two more, it being yet early, and to start at daybreak along the east bank on which I now was, feeling convinced that I had not yet struck the ford, although I was equally convinced that I had come much more than twelve miles from the lake. Soon after sundown I wrapped myself up in my opossum rug, and with Don for a pillow slept till dawn. I lit a fire in the grey morning, and by daylight had breakfasted and was ready to start.

THE EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER.

I struck into the bush at the south end of the beach, and found open country, large timber, chiefly pine, and easy travelling, the ferns being small, and the supplejacks not troublesome. This continued for two or three miles, when the mountains, which up to this time had been about a mile distant to the eastward, began to close in, and the bush to grow thicker and more scrubby. Another mile brought me to the foot of a spur, there being, however, a terrace about twenty yards wide between it and the river. This terrace was covered with large ferns, and here and there very large trees were growing. By this time I had passed several beaches and small shingly islets, and on the other side of the river a short precipice, and a large creek with a boulder bed, and a rapid fall. I had also crossed several small creeks, the largest of which I afterwards discovered was named Hidden Falls creek on the maps. The terrace on which I was travelling was very undulating, the average height from the river being about thirty feet, and the creek beds were deep and abrupt, entailing much difficulty in crossing. They flowed slowly, and, as I judged, came through swampy land to the eastward.

THE CROWNING MISHAP.

My mishaps did not appear to be yet ended, and perhaps the greatest one was yet to come. Hitherto all they had led to was the loss of a little time, but as I was well stocked with provisions, and as the weather had every appearance of keeping fine, that did not much matter. After passing the narrow terrace, the country began to widen out again, but with it to sink to nearly the level of the river, which took a sharp bend to the westward. There was a sudden change from the fine timber I had been travelling through to dwarf birch and thick scrub, the lawyers being specially prevalent. I tried the bank of the river, but could not make much headway. I went further away from it, and found swamp. I struggled along as well as I could with the aid of my tomahawk, but made very little progress, and at last determined to ford the river and try the west bank again, which might, I thought, be better. I succeeded in gaining a likely crossing place, and sat down on the beach to rest before attempting it. It was fortunate that I did so, and fortunate also that I took off my swag, which was becoming an intolerable burden to me. The first thing I saw when I took it off was, that the lower end of my rug, the part behind my back, had been partially torn out of the flax with which it was tied, by the lawyers most probably, and on opening it, I found that the whole of my provisions, biscuit, cheese, German sausage, tea, and sugar were gone; all gone, except one tin of sardines, which I had stowed away with some other indispensables at the other end of the swag. I looked at my bereft swag in blank amazement, and then sat down to think what I should do next.

RETURN TO THE LAKE.

Disgusted as I was with the idea, there was nothing for it but to turn back. I had not yet reached the ford, and I knew there was two days' journey before me when I did reach it, so I determined to take the back track as soon as possible. I made up my swag and started without loss of time. This was Saturday the 19th at nearly noon, and I reached the last night's camp early in the afternoon.

I fortunately found there a couple of broken biscuits which I had thrown down to my dog in the morning, but which he had not eaten, he having had a good breakfast on part of a Maori hen he had caught the previous day. I kept my tin of sardines therefore as a reserve, and started down the east side of the river, not caring to cross the ford again, but hoping to find an easier place lower down. I crossed the large creek, and tried to get into the bush, but an impenetrable jungle of lawyers met me at the outset. I then went up the creek a short distance, and found an opening with tolerably clear fern land and birch scrub for a little way. Soon, however, I came to a swampy lagoon, which forced me to turn into the thicket again. I crossed the lagoon at a narrow part, and tried to force my way onward, knowing from the bend in the river that I must come to better country soon. The further I went, however, the worse it became. I tried all plans to get through the tangled wall of lawyers which beset me. I endeavoured to force myself through them by sheer strength, but that was a failure. I tried them high up and I tried them low down, but all to no purpose, and, at last, out of breath, exhausted, and with hands, face, and lower limbs scratched, and full of thorns, and my clothes torn simply into ribbons, I gave it up. I sat down in a watercourse, whence there appeared to be no egress, and rested awhile, after which I commenced extricating myself from the tangle into which I had got, and by dint of creeping and pushing, and a total disregard of thorns and briars, succeeded in getting back to my camp just as the shades of evening were beginning to close in, having been away about four hours, and, as I honestly believe, not made a quarter of a mile of headway. I lit a fire, and in the absence of anything to eat, for I was [illegible] to keep my little stock for [illegible] two days, consoled [illegible] could with my pi[illegible] plenty of tobacco, a[illegible] matches. I made an [illegible]

lowing morning, Sunday, March 20th, recrossed the ford, the river not running so strongly at that early time of the day, as after the sun had been at work on the snow for some hours, and travelled as rapidly as I could. I fortunately found much more of the blazed line in going back than I had in coming, and I found several camps, Arthur's probably, which I had not seen in my upward route. At one of them I saw a board with the words "Take it" carved upon it, referring probably to a track to which it pointed. At all events I did take it, and found it to answer. At the first precipice I came to, I lost a little time by getting too high up, and coming to a sheer precipice, from which I had, of course, to retrace my steps. I got to the beach below Pyke's Creek early in the afternoon, and after eating half my sardines, started again, camping for the night on the bank of the ana-branch I have mentioned. Unfortunately, I left it too late, and could not find suitable wood for a fire in the dark, so that, although I lit one, it soon went out. I started again early on the Monday morning, after eating half my remaining sardines, and passing a camp on the high ground overhanging the river opposite the lake island, reached the head of the lake at about three in the afternoon. I lit a large fire, and finished my sardines, and whilst waiting for the boat, which I had arranged should come for me that evening, employed myself in tying together my rags—they could scarcely, with propriety, be called garments, more particularly that portion of them which had been the covering of my nether man—in order to afford myself some protection against the attacks of the sand-flies. In about an hour I saw the boat coming up the lake with a fair wind, and in due course she arrived. Kleber and M'Kenzie had come up in her, and had brought with them biscuits, butter, cheese, and tea. We boiled the billy, and I ate such a meal [illegible] not eaten for a very long time [illegible] We pulled down the lake, [illegible] the survey camp at about [illegible] thoroughly tired, and [illegible]

heartily thankful for having got back safely. I found Mr Strachan, M'Kenzie, and Kleber were the only persons at the camp, the others being on the sandspit, and after giving a history of my proceedings and mishap, and arranging for a fresh start on the following Wednesday, went to bed, and was soon, it is almost unnecessary to say, fast asleep.

THE LOWER CAMP.

I rose early the following morning (Tuesday, the 22nd), and after breakfast took the small boat and pulled down to the lower camp on the sand spit, with the double object of seeing the progress of the survey, and of visiting those who had been left at the Charles Edward's camp, the steamer Kennedy having come down during my absence, and taken off the passengers and most of the crew. The morning was warm and pleasant, the lake being unruffled by the slightest breeze, and my pull to the entrance of the river was a very deliberate one. On getting into the river I chose the west bank, the current flowing most strongly on that side, and drifted down with barely sufficient paddling to make the boat steer, having both current and tide with me. On passing the precipitous bank which I have mentioned as occurring on this side the upper reach, I saw the large boat made fast to a tree, and concluded therefore that Mr Thomson's party were in the bush thereabouts. I cooeyed lustily, but got no reply, and passed on my way down the stream. On arriving at the lower camp, I found no one at home except Robertson, the cook, from whom I learned that Mr Thomson and the men had gone to the top of the remarkable conical hill at the northwest corner of the lake, already referred to, in order to clear away the bush and erect a point of triangulation. I determined to wait until their return, as I wished to ask Mr Thomson to allow one of his men, if he could spare one, to accompany me as far as the ford, which I felt confident I had not reached when my unfortunate loss of provisions compelled me to turn back. In the meantime I walked down to the Charles Edward's camp, arriving there during dinner, of which I partook. I found that the whaleboat in which the captain and others had gone to Hokitika had reached that port, meeting the Kennedy, which had been sent out to look for the Charles Edward, three hours out. After returning to Hokitika, so as to allow Captain Holmes to report what had taken place, the Kennedy steamed for the scene of the wreck. I furthermore learned that she had arrived at Martin's Bay on Friday, the 18th, and, without entering the river, had taken off the passengers and crew in the boats, leaving the cargo in charge of the steward and two of the crew. Her intention was to return in a few days to take away the cargo, and to lift the Charles Edward, which, it was said, could be easily done in a day, with proper appliances, pumps, &c. The hole caused by the snag had been found in the port bow below the water line. As nearly as I could learn one of the plates had been wrenched from the bolts, and was torn across, forming an aperture something like the letter T in shape. Through this the water had flowed into the forecastle, and, the bulk heads not being water tight, subsequently into the forehold, engine room, and after part of the vessel. There was, however, really very little damage done after all, and none that could not soon and easily be repaired. I learned that the passengers and crew had left all well, and that Mrs M'Intosh had so far recovered as to be able to be removed into the Kennedy without difficulty or danger. It appeared that the children cried at having to leave their wild home in the sandspit, and certainly they, if no one else did, enjoyed their rather prolonged picnic, and were, when I last saw them, the very pictures of rude health. After dinner I returned to the survey camp at the head of the sand spit, and waited for the return of the party. The afternoon was fine, with a light sea breeze blowing, just sufficient to prevent the sandflies being too troublesome, I attempted a thorough ablution, a luxury I had not enjoyed for nearly a week, my

journey up the river and back having lasted six days, but my hands and face were too sore, being torn with lawyers and full of thorns, for me to make much of it. As the shades of evening began to close in, the survey party returned, and after tea, I mentioned to Mr Thomson my intention of making a fresh start, asking him if he could spare a man to go with me to the ford. He at once expressed his willingness to accompany me himself, and said that if we could make the ford in good time, he would go with me as far as Lake Harris, where he wanted to take observations of the points of some of the surrounding ranges. I at once gladly availed myself of the offer, not only because of the satisfaction of having some one with me a part of the way—and travelling alone is very dreary—but also because Mr Thomson is an excellent bushman, and what is more, a thoroughly good fellow in every sense of the word. After making our arrangements for a start early the following morning, and sitting awhile talking round the fire, we all turned in.

GOLD IN BIG BAY.

The existence of gold in Big Bay, the next bight in the land to the north of Martin's Bay, has been known for some time, and small parties of diggers have occasionally settled there for the purpose of working it. Owing, however, to the impossibility of obtaining stores, they have invariably been obliged to move nearer to a settlement, or to some place where provisions could be obtained. A small store has been erected there, and was carried on for a short time, but, as I am informed, it had to be given up, from the irregularity with which supplies were obtainable. Big Bay lies within a very short distance of the new settlement, not more than twelve or fourteen miles by the present route, round the rocky bluff lying between the two [illegible] lent track, however, [illegible] from the back of the [illegible] flat land, and over a low [illegible] does [illegible] mor[illegible] and which has an easy ascent, the distance not being more than eight or nine miles, perhaps not so much as that. The two prospectors, whom I have mentioned as accompanying our expedition, taking with them a few days' provisions, started round the bluff from the mouth of the river for the purpose of trying the beach and some of the watercourses for gold. They merely went to prospect, and did not take with them the proper appliances for gold mining. They were absent three days, and returned with the intelligence that they had found gold. They brought back with them a very handsome sample of rough scaly gold, much waterworn, weighing about 3dwt, and larger in the scale than the gold I had obtained from the miners from the Gorge. This gold they had washed out in a bag from a quantity of stuff they had picked up on the beach, and they returned to camp for the purpose of taking back with them their mining tools, and a stock of provisions. Like all other diggers they were somewhat reticent as to the exact spot on which they had pitched, but they expressed themselves as satisfied with the prospect. At all events they have shifted their quarters to the new ground, and we shall probably ere long learn more of the capabilities of that part of the district (comprised in block B.), as they are, so to speak, within cooey of the upper camp.

THREATENING WEATHER.

Mr Thomson and myself arranged that we should leave the lower for the upper camp with the turn of the tide, which would be shortly after midnight, but the moon rising dim and watery, and the Aurora Australis lighting up the horizon, gave warning of bad weather. During the night the wind came on from the south-east, and the sky was heavy and overcast with clouds, so that we postponed our pull up the river until after an [illegible]reakfast. On arriving at the lake [illegible]nesday morning, the 23rd, [illegible]r swags in readiness for [illegible] threatening weather [illegible]out 10 o'clock a.m. a

light shower came on, the wind blowing more strongly down the lake, and prevented our starting. There was no rain to speak of, but the wind gradually increased in violence, until it blew nearly half a gale down the lake, and we had consequently to give up all idea of starting that day, as we should never have been able to get the boat up in the teeth of such a wind. We had, consequently, to postpone our start until the wind had lulled, which did not take place until the following morning. Warned by my previous experience, I adopted a new plan of packing my swag, and having taken a tracing of the entire route, sat long with Mr Strachan and Mr Thomson discussing matters in general. The former informed me that a number of additional sections of land had been taken up, and I learned that some of the men who had come down with the survey party had expressed their intention of settling in the district, so impressed were they with the idea of a flourishing township springing up on the lake. Those whose names were mentioned as likely to remain are men of the true pioneer stamp, hardy, handy, and accomplished bushmen; and it augurs well for the success of the settlement when men like these can see it to be their interest to make their homes in this luxuriant wilderness.

ANOTHER START.

The wind, which had been blowing hard all night, somewhat subsided on the morning of Thursday, the 24th, although the lake was still running too high to make it either safe or pleasant to start. The sky was clear, but a heavy mist still hung on the mountains, preventing our seeing more than half way up them, and not giving Mr Thomson an opportunity of seeing his survey points as he wished. He had arranged that during his absence from the camp his men should proceed to the top of the lofty hill opposite the south end of the spit, and lying north-east of the lake. There they were to clear away a station for the erection of a triangulation staff, so as to be in readiness for his return. By mid-day the wind had died away, and the lake being comparatively smooth, we decided to start after dinner. Accordingly, again wishing Mr Strachan and Mr M'Kenzie good-bye, I embarked with Mr Thomson and Kleber, who was to accompany us to the head of the lake, and return with the boat. We had a pretty stiff pull up the lake, the wash of the waves, and what little wind there was, being against us. On reaching the mouth of the river, and in order to save a somewhat difficult tramp through the thickly-scrubbed terrace on the western side of this part of the Hollyford, we tracked the boat up about a mile past the little creek which I had previously made my point of departure. Arriving opposite a shelving bank we pulled across the rapid current, and landed, making the boat fast to a tree. We had also brought a tent with us, and at a distance of about twenty yards from the river, we pitched it and made our fire, having plenty of fern on which to repose. We camped in the neighbourhood of an old camping place of Arthur's, known to us as the old boot camp, from a pair of boots cut into slippers having been found there by Messrs Page and Welsh.

UP THE RIVER.

The next morning, Friday, the 25th, we were up at daybreak, and after a hearty breakfast of tea, biscuit, butter, and cheese, Mr Thomson and myself started south-east through the thick fern, leaving Kleber to take back the tent in the boat, with instructions to come up to the head of the lake for Mr Thomson on Sunday, and remain until Monday night if necessary. I found Mr Thomson to be an excellent walker, and despite the thick undergrowth we soon struck the river. We kept pretty much the same course as I had previously followed, taking care, however, to make no deviation into the swamps which had cost so much time and trouble before. Passing the island at Pyke's creek we got a long stretch of Arthur's blazed line, which although much overgrown, and occasionally difficult to find, was comparatively easy walking. We passed the place where Kleber

and I had camped on a sandbank at about noon, resting there and having dinner, and shortly before sunset reached the falls where I had previously crossed. Mr Thomson was struck, as I had been before, with its resemblance to the place shewn on the sketch furnished by Mr M'Kerrow. At this point we took the bush again, and soon got from the heavily timbered land through which we were travelling, into a fine open grassy flat about a mile in length and a quarter of a mile wide, quite dry when we crossed it, but probably a swamp in wet weather. It was bordered like those I have previously described with tall flax, birch scrub, tea tree, and lawyer bush. Emerging from this we got into another magnificently wooded flat, the ranges to the west being very lofty and not so distant as those further down the river, and the level country, consequently, more limited in extent. The soil here was very good, and appeared to contain more clay as we got further up the river, which at this part is very tortuous and is bordered on alternate sides by long sandy and shingly beaches. Crossing one large, and several small, creeks, and the short precipice I had noticed from the other side, which I found was rather a lofty terrace with an almost perpendicular bank than a precipice properly so called, we descended into another rather low flat, timbered with black birch, and having a thick undergrowth of fern. Having found a convenient spot, we camped for the night near a little shingle beach with plenty of drift wood on it.

COMFORTABLE QUARTERS.

I omitted to mention that in crossing the second and largest precipice from the mouth of the river, and, as I suppose, in sliding down one of the ravines which intersect it in all directions, my belt, in which were slung my billy and tomahawk, became unfastened and dropped off. I missed it when we came to a level plateau on the face of the hill, but although we lost nearly half an hour in searching for these indispensables, we failed in finding them, the operation being something like the one well known as looking for a needle in a haystack. I imagine they must have fallen down the side of the precipice, probably into the river. Fortunately, however, I had with me a tin of salmon, and the tin, when emptied, made an excellent kettle, rather small perhaps, but by boiling one lot of tea in that, and another in the pannikin, we got on pretty well. We made a splendid fire on the beach, and rigged up a mimi of branches and fern on the flat, so that we had an excellent meal, and a very comfortable night's rest, despite the sandflies. Rising at early dawn, we had breakfast, and started again in search of the ford which we had not as yet arrived at, although, instead of twelve, we must certainly, taking the bends of the river into account, have travelled eighteen or twenty miles, for, as shown by the map, we had made twelve miles in a straight line from point to point.

A DANGEROUS CREEK.

We struck into the bush, and again came out on a long beach where the river took a sharp bend to the westward, and where, on the opposite bank, was the low flat at which I had turned back on discovering the loss of my provisions in my previous journey. At the head of this bend, and where the river turned off again in a long shallow reach under a high terrace with perpendicular clay and shingle banks, we found a wide creek with a boulder and pebbly bottom flowing down a steep fall from the ranges. We tracked up the creek for some distance, coming at last to a wide and rather deep reach, when we thought we might venture to ford. A huge tree lay a little distance aslant in the stream, and going out as far as possible on this, we entered the creek. The water, like that of all creeks of this character, was intensely cold, coming from the melting snow and glaciers above, and the current ran so rapidly as almost to carry us off our feet. Our progress was slow, but eventually we got over without accident. An hour's walking through birch, pine, and totara, with easily tra-

versed undergrowth, brought us to an abrupt precipice. Up a good portion of this it was necessary to climb on our hands and knees, over huge boulders, and through dwarf birch, which choked up the passage between the larger trees, to the serious detriment of our already somewhat dilapidated clothing. This, however, did not last long, and we rapidly descended into a low flat, heavily bushed and almost impassable near the river, and swampy farther away from it. After crossing two or three small muddy flats, in which the water was covered with a reddish scum, and in which we sank over the ankles in abominably smelling sediment, we got to a larger creek with a hard sandy bottom. This we crossed, and passed over a small low mangrove covered flat, finding out at the other end that the creek was a small ana-branch of the river. In order to get over the southern end, which was opposite the rapids at High Fall Creek, it was necessary to slide down the bank a depth of about eight feet, and to climb up a similar height on the other side. In performing one or other of these gymnastic experiments Mr Thomson lost his tomahawk, missing it a short time afterwards, but not deeming it worth while to go back to look for it, as our previous experience had taught us that such searches were next to hopeless. The country succeeding was a low flat patch of birch scrub, tea tree, and lawyer bush, and it was only with great difficulty that we could make headway through it. By keeping away to the right, although a dangerous experiment, we got into a little more open country, though the thick growth of supple jack hampered us sadly. The land in this locality did not appear to be good, consisting of swamps, and patches of sterile land in the more elevated parts.

ARTHUR'S FORD.

After dragging ourselves through the dense scrub which fringed the river for a depth of twenty or thirty yards, we emerged upon a fine wide shingle beach, with a large island covered with deep coarse grass to the right of us. This we thought must be the place we were in search of, although it looked nothing like the sketch. We tried very hard to find points of resemblance, but failed to do so. This was, however, as we afterwards found, Arthur's Ford, and the best place to cross, although it was a long way distant from the spot marked by Mr M'Kerrow, who imagined he had struck this ford when he crossed the river higher up, and marked it on the map accordingly. We consulted as to whether we should cross or not, and at last decided to go further before doing so. We had gone over to the island when we struck the place, the western stream being small and shallow. Wending our way through the grass and shrubs, we recrossed the river, and gained the mainland, getting entangled in a labyrinth of thick undergrowth, through which we had the greatest difficulty in forcing our way.

ANOTHER MORAINE.

Presently we got upon a tolerably long boulder beach, which led us to the foot of another moraine, larger than the one we had previously passed. On the western side of the river along which we were proceeding the ranges rose almost precipitously, although there was a narrow terrace of heavily timbered but tolerably open bush land between them and the river. From the terrace along which we were walking, the whirl and rush of water among the huge masses of rock which lay in the river bed beneath us, was something terrible to contemplate, and we were glad to come to another reach which led us by a succession of easy beaches to a place where the river was divided into two streams by a large bed of shingle lying in its middle. We had seen no trace of a blaze for some time, although we had looked very closely for one, and we accordingly determined to cross the river, and see whether the blazes were continued on the east bank—whether in fact, we had passed Arthur's ford or not. After getting over, the sun being at his meridian, we sat down on the beach, and had a snack preparatory to striking into

the bush again. We began to fear that we had passed the place, and determined to go on to a place about two miles ahead, where a spur from the ranges appeared to run boldly out to the river, and, if we did not find the ford there or before that point, to turn back and examine every beach down the east side.

LOOKING FOR THE FORD.

On taking the bush, the first thing that struck us was one of Arthur's well-known bold blazes on an immense pine. This told us at once that we had passed Arthur's ford, and brought us to a stand-still. We held another consultation, and decided on going back along the track on that side, knowing that it must bring us out at the Maori whare, near which Mr M'Kerrow had marked his crossing place on the map. We found fine open country, with very large timber, the flat appearing to run a long way back to the base of the hills to the eastward. We crossed a small creek having a cascade outlet, on a fallen tree, and, keeping to the river, presently lost the blazed line, a large area—probably eight or ten chains in width—having been washed away by the floods subsequently to the time when the track was marked. After a rather dangerous passage of two or three hundred yards close along the edge of the river, the ground being anything but firm, we came to a slight rise along the reach we had passed in coming up, and then suddenly found ourselves at the foot of a steep precipice. In threading the intricacies of this, we lost the track, and ascending too high, came to the middle of a tremendous landslip, over which we had much difficulty in making our way, the stones and rocks, huge masses of grey granite of hard texture and tabular structure, being loose, and threatening to give way with us at every footstep. Had they done so, the consequences might have been serious, but by care, and slowly picking our way, we got ove rsafely, and descended to a lower level where we found the track again. This precipice extended for about a mile, and overhung the deep moraine which we had passed on the other side. At the end of the moraine we arrived at a low lying flat covered with thick birch scrub, but having a long sandy beach with clumps of veronica, and patches of coarse grass, tutu, and toi-toi, running by the side of the river. This we traversed from end to end, examining it carefully for traces of M'Kerrow, but finding none. Another stretch of rough bush, with a well marked track, brought us over a high terrace to the river bank again, opposite the island I have mentioned as being the place where we first contemplated crossing, and following the blazes along the bank of the river we soon arrived at the remains of the Maori whare. This settled our whereabouts at once. This was Arthur's ford, and no mistake, for the blaze took us right down to the river, at the whare, and went no further. It was therefore evident that, as Mr M'Kerrow had crossed the blazed track, his ford must be higher up, and equally evident that he had marked it on the map at the wrong spot. There was nothing for it but to retrace our steps, and look for the ford further up than where we had turned back. We had come about four miles from our turning point, and we had still further to go. We got along the precipice lower down, and much more easily than when we crossed it coming down, and, putting our best feet foremost, reached the place whence we had started by about four o'clock, thus having lost four hours, and nearly exhausted ourselves in doing so.

A SURPRISE.

We sat down on the edge of the bank for a few minutes, and then started again with fresh vigour, determined on making the bluff headland which we saw ahead. We followed the track until we came to a sandy beach, which we traversed, when suddenly our attention was attracted by seeing distinctly imprinted in the sand the mark of a boot. It was the only
we could find, and we were almo
much puzzled as was Robinson C
when he saw the mark of a huma
on his island. The sandy beach
round a sharp point, and led us

low flat of tutu and fern, where we saw more footmarks, those of several men and a dog, and tracing them up we came to a camp with newly strewn fern, and recently cut tent poles. Here we saw a stick planted upright in the ground, with a brandy bottle (empty, I need hardly say), stuck on the top of it, and here I found a plug of tobacco, which was very welcome, for most of mine was damp. We could not, of course, imagine who the party were who had camped there, nor what their object had been. We had seen no tracks of theirs up the the river, nor was it likely we should have passed them without seeing or hearing them, and the occurrence served as a matter of speculation until we camped and went to sleep. I discovered afterwards that the camp was that of Mr Simpson, the district road engineer, who had crossed with a party from Lake Wakatipu to the Hollyford river and then gone back, having left the camp we had just come across about the previous Thursday. They were eight days out, so that if I had succeeded in finding the ford on my first expedition, I should have met them somewhere on the other side of the ranges. Mr Simpson's object in crossing was to find out the best route along which to make a road between the two lakes, Wakatipu and M'Kerrow. After leaving the camp we went into the bush again, and after a few yards crossed a small ana-branch of the river which led us to the next beach.

M'KERROW'S FORD.

Following the blazed line along the terrace, we suddenly came across two large birch trees having the initials A. M'K. and A. W., also 1870, deeply cut upon them. Here then at last we knew we were right, and throwing down our swags, we decided on camping for the night. We found the ford as Mr M'Kerrow had described it—shallow, not being more than 18 inches deep, a shingle bank on each side, a large tree about 150 yards down the stream, a small islet about the same distance up it, and a rocky wall of precipices springing perpendicularly from a narrow low lying terrace on the west side. I need hardly say how delighted we were to have reached this stage of our journey, although it was five or six miles higher up the river than was laid down on our chart, and many, very many miles further from the head of the lake than we anticipated when we started. Taking into account the numerous bends in the river, I should say that we had travelled, exclusive of the incidental run down the river to Arthur's Ford and back again, fully twenty-four miles, as we had come about sixteen from point to point in a direct line. This ford is one easily crossed, the river being shallow at this place, and the current not very rapid. Nevertheless I think the better plan by far to get down the river is to follow the track leading northward down the east bank, to where it terminates at the Maori Whare, to cross Arthur's ford there, and follow the blazed line down the other side. Of course a person crossing at M'Kerrow's ford, and following the river down, will come on the same track five or six miles further on, but the bush is very heavy, the scrub dense, and the land, in some places, low-lying and swampy, and in others steep and precipitous. By the time we arrived at the marked trees it was close on six o'clock p.m., and we soon had a splendid fire blazing on the beach, there being abundance of dry drift wood available. We had tea, made fragrant the atmosphere with the fumes of the Indian weed, and turned in on a luxuriant bed of thick fern, where, lulled by the musical ripple of the river beneath us, we were soon buried in deep and refreshing slumber.

A HARD CLIMB.

We were woke at daybreak, Sunday, the 27th, by the metallic note of the mokomoko, and the cheerful songs of the thousands of small birds that are denizens of the New Zealand bush, and hastily making up the fire, and having an early breakfast, we prepared for a start, for betwixt us and Lake Harris, a distance of two miles and a half, lay a climb of four thousand feet to the top of a saddle in the great Southern Alps. Mr Thomson had

arranged to accompany me to the top of the saddle, wishing to take some observations there, and notwithstanding that the morning was misty and the barometer was slightly falling, he determined to climb the ridge. We found the marked trees, and struck along M'Kerrow's blazed track for about a quarter of a mile eastward, when we came to the rocky bed of a small creek, which in accordance with our instructions, we followed up for about half a mile, still going eastward, gradually rising as we proceeded. In this creek I saw numerous specimens of carboniferous shale, and two tolerably large land slips on the left (north) bank, showed a formation of slaty shale and clay. The bed of the creek was pretty clear from obstruction, although it entailed occasional scrambles over huge blocks of granite, and now and then a rather risky jump from one slippery boulder to another. The water was not very deep, except here and there in some of the holes, where it reached up to our knees. Keeping a bright look out for the blaze which was the mark for striking into the bush, we had no difficulty in finding it, and climbing up the steep crumbling clay which formed the bank of the creek (called Coal Creek by Mr Simpson), we found ourselves on the side of an almost perpendicular hill, up which we had to get the best way we could. The creek we had just quitted appeared to come down from the north-east, and struck me as being a very likely one in which to find gold, the existence of which the whole of this part of the district seems to indicate. In fact, I am of opinion that gold, in large or small quantities, will be found all along the valley of the Hollyford, and in most of its tributary creeks, at the upper end in particular, when the country is properly and energetically prospected, a state of things which, however, cannot come to pass until proper provision by means of a store is established on the Lake, so that diggers may obtain their necessaries within an easy distance of their workings. The track from the point of departure from the creek was difficult and dangerous in the extreme, the face of the mountain being in many places all but perpendicular, and climbing was only to be achieved by means of pulling ourselves up with the assistance of the undergrowth and the roots of trees. The general slope was very steep, and was only to be got over by occasionally scrambling up on our hands and knees, and holding on by whatever we could find to steady ourselves by. At a height of about a thousand feet we were glad enough to lie down full length on the sloping bank for a few minutes, and recover our breath. I was completely blown, and should have liked to have lain there for half an hour, but Mr Thomson, who wished to reach the top before the mist, which was rolling up the valley in dense masses, covered the peaks, and who, besides that, was a better climber than I was, would brook no such delay, and we re-commenced our upward scramble. As we got higher the track became more broken, and although perhaps not having quite the same perpendicular ascent, more difficult to traverse, leading us round the heads of deep ravines, where the footing was of the narrowest and most precarious nature; in fact, in many places there was no footing at all except what we could get by digging our feet into the soft crumbling soil. It was very exciting while it lasted, but it only needed one slip, one little attack of dizziness, and there was a very easy, if not pleasant, road to the bottom. After getting up about half-way we found a narrow terrace where we were again glad to pause awhile, and which led us through a swampy depression to the foot of the next ascent, quite as steep, if not so long, as the first one. Surmounting this, we began to leave the larger timber, and mounting a rather long hill covered with birch scrub, which formed the third rise, we soon got to a wide flat terrace which marked the boundary of the bush land. The terrace was covered at its commencement with moss, tufts of coarse grass, and low scrub; and here we found the remains of a survey camp, plentifully strewn with kaka and pigeon feathers, showing that the party

preceding us must have been busy amongst the birds. Just before reaching this terrace, my dog caught a kaka, though how he managed it I could not make out, as these birds, whenever I have seen them, fly very high. As he, however, performed the same feat the following day, I suppose they must occasionally light on the ground to feed. Arrived at the survey camp, we saw the remainder of our climb before us, and uninviting enough it looked in all conscience. Our destination lay at the top of a narrow depression or saddle between two lofty bare rocky peaks, which shot up perpendicularly from the range, and which were covered with patches of snow. Up to this time the mist had kept clear of this side of the river, except in the valley beneath, which was shrouded in a thick mass of fog. As, however, we crossed the terrace toward the foot of the saddle, the tops of the peaks began to be over-clouded, and we soon lost sight of them. This caused us to put on an extra spurt, for to be caught in the mist on these ranges is no joke, and would have necessitated our camping until it cleared off. It was very hard work though, climbing up the steep side of that saddle, through thick beds of box scrub and coarse grass, with an occasional scramble over a huge boulder or a mass of detached rock, which had fallen from the heights. Three-quarters of an hour's laberious sticking close to it, brought us to the top of the saddle, and crossing a grassy flat patch, with a few shallow water-holes in it, we came to our first view of Lake Harris. The time we took from the Hollyford to the top of the saddle was exactly three hours, two hours and a quarter from the river to the survey camp on the terrace, and three quarters of an hour from there to the summit of the ridge. With what breath we had left we indulged in an attempt at a cheer, and sank down on the sward completely done up.

LAKE HARRIS.

After a short rest, we lit the pipe of peace (we had only one between us, Mr Thomson having lost his in the thick scrub at the foot of the hill), and proceeded to look round. Fortunately the mist had cleared off, and the sun was shining, so that from our eyrie of 4000 ft. high we got a splendid view of the surrounding ranges. The view was shut in to the north and east by the Bryneira Mountains, and to the south west by a lofty conical peak of the same range, close under which we were located. To the west, however, we had a fine view of the deep valley of the Hollyford which we had just left, and beyond that of the Darran Range, with its numerous lofty snow covered and glacier clad peaks, beyond which Mount Pembroke, 6710ft; Llawrenny Peak, 6500ft, and Mitre Peak, 5540ft high, showed their white scalps. To the south east, the tremendous gorge of the Routeburn opened out for some distance, until it was shut in by the river bending round to the north east, but far away through the opening could be seen the immense snow clad summits of the Forbes Mountains, Mount Earnslaw, 9165ft high, being specially prominent, and some of the more easterly peaks of the Humboldt ranges. It was a magnificent sight, and even as a view of mountain scenery only, amply repaid the toil we had been at to reach the lofty plateau on which we stood. Lake Harris lay in a deep rocky bed fully a hundred feet below us, being enclosed by precipitous walls on all sides except at its outlet, which is at its narrowest part, and at its south eastern end. The lake is about a quarter of a mile in length from north-west to south-east, and perhaps half that breadth in the widest part. It is, in form, something like a heart, and is fed at its upper end by a creek flowing from a smaller lake (Lake Wilson) at a higher elevation, and some distance farther north. Judging from the appearance of the water it is very deep, its bed being one of those singular depressions not unfrequently found in mountain ranges, and caused probably by volcanic agency. Speaking generally, it is not much unlike a rift in the mountains, with an immense dam placed across its lower

end, the outlet being a waterfall or cascade fifty or sixty feet high. The saddle, the lowest point in the dividing range, and the only place in the locality where crossing is known to be practicable, lies on the western side, and is practically impassable in winter from the snow, and from a dangerous passage which it is necessary to make round the shelving face of a rocky bluff on the south-west side of the lake. After a good rest on the grass, Mr Thomson and I shook ourselves together, and prepared for another start, he on his backward journey, and I down the valley of the Routeburn, for at this point, generally speaking, about the halfway of the journey between the two lakes, we had to part. He ascended with me to the top of the bluff, and there, with the wall of rock above us and the sheer precipice below, we exchanged mutual good wishes, shook hands, and parted. I need hardly say how regretfully I lost sight of him, and shall always retain a lively remembrance, not only of his kindness and goodfellowship in accompanying me thus far, but also of his readiness, and, I may say, generous anxiety, to afford me all information in his power relative to the survey or anything else with which he was acquainted, and here I beg to express my many obligations to him, and my indebtedness for many hints which have added materially te the value of this narrative.

THE HEAD OF THE ROUTEBURN.

After a somewhat perilous passage along the shelving ledge of the rocky bluff, I descended, by a series of slidings down the slopes, and careful traverses along the edges of the more precipitous falls in the land, into a wide grassy basin, intersected by numerous small streams, and dotted here and there with clumps of veronica, dwarf box, and speargrass, with occasional patches of swamp, through which flows the upper end of the Routeburn, after its fall from its parent lake. The river at this point divides itself into three or four channels, which converge at the lower end of the basin. The western side consists of a rather large flat sloping upwards toward the range, from the foot of which there is a rapid ascent, but the eastern is undulating, swelling into low round hills to the foot of the abrupt range on that side. This basin may be a mile and a half in length, and about half that in width. It is covered with grass of better quality than I had seen on the other side the range, although whether, from its great elevation, it would be available even as sheep grazing country, I am not prepared to say. It certainly is useless for any other purpose. Crossing the river and keeping along the eastern bank, I came to the head of the upper falls, the bed of the stream suddenly changing at that point from peat, sand, and fine gravel, to masses of gigantic boulders, and the country being thickly covered with thick box scrub. I crossed the river a little way down, seeing a sloping flat over which I took the chord of a semicircular bend. On turning the point of the basin, I found that my course was generally north east instead of south east, as shown on the chart, the difference being caused by Lake Harris being placed many miles north of its true position. On his visit to the lake, however, Mr M'Kerrow, from the observations which he took, has been able to define its position exactly, and on the map he has since prepared, has laid it down accurately.

THE UPPER FALLS.

Striking the river, I crossed again, and came to a lofty bluff, difficult and dangerous to traverse, overhanging the foot of a deep fall, over which the water rushed in a perfect cataract from a height of about twenty feet. Finding, in the torn state of my nether garments, although I had started from Lake M'Kerrow in a fresh pair, that walking through the deep box scrub and dwarf birch was exceedingly unpleasant, I tracked down the bed of the stream, stepping and jumping from boulder to boulder, where practicable, sliding down the larger ones, and wading wherever I could find a shallow pool. This, however, was a mode of procedu which I should by no means recomm and a random slip down the face of

immense block of granite into a pool which took me nearly up to the middle, and out of which I had some difficulty in extricating myself, drove me back to *terra firma*, despite the prickly scrub I had to get through. Reaching the bottom of the upper falls, I came on a narrow flattish terrace sloping upward to the eastern ranges, and covered with the same birch scrub near the river. On the sides of the hills to the eastward there were some patches of grass, and I am inclined to believe that some open country lies on the western side of the river, although on account of the high banks on that side I could not see it.

THE LOWER FALLS.

From the edge of this plateau, which is about a mile and a half in length, and from a point at the top of the lower falls, I obtained a fine view of a large tract of flat, grassy country, stretching from the foot of the falls to a dense bush beyond, and of the embouchure of the northern branch of the Routeburn, which flows down a deep mountain gorge lying to the north-east from this place. The lower falls have a much more severe slope than the upper, and are more than twice the length. They consist of a series of cascades, some of them very lofty, with intervening stretches of boulder bottomed rapids, and, considered as scenery, are extremely fine. Their height I estimated at a thousand feet (Mr Simpson estimates them at eleven hundred), and the horizontal distance from top to bottom is about three-quarters of a mile. Going down the falls, the birch becomes larger, attaining the proportion of trees in many places, and the country consequently becomes more open, and the travelling easier. Nevertheless there are some nasty pinches to be got over, and several times, where I could see a good opportunity, I availed myself of the bed of the stream. At one of these places I fell in with footmarks again, and following them into the open forest came out on the edge of a belt of swamp overgrown with grass and reeds, and on the border of a wide but shallow and sluggish semi-creek, semi-lagoon. I followed this down along the margin of the birch forest through a dry swamp covered with rank grass, and struck the river at a nice reach with a shingle bottom and a sandy beach.

A GRASSY BASIN.

I found myself on the southern edge of the large grassy flat or basin which I had seen and admired from the plateau at the top of the lower falls, and following the river, or rather that branch of the river which I was skirting, saw that the flat extended about a mile and a-half in length by a quarter of a mile wide, that it was intersected by numerous meandering creeks and watercourses, and that some of it was swampy; probably the whole of it is under water in flood time. The banks of the streams flowing through it consist of loose small shingle and sand, in which I traced footmarks of at least two men and a dog. The flat was the best I had seen, although from its being, in all probability, liable to submersion by floods, it may be practically useless. It is covered with long thick grass, and would, I should think, form excellent grazing ground for sheep during the dry season. On the eastern side of the basin, the main or western branch of the river, down which I had come, is joined by a smaller stream, the northern branch, which rises in an almost inaccessible saddle of the dividing range, and flows down a gorge between two lofty spurs of the Bryneira mountains. Here Caples's upward track, marks of which I found lower down, diverges to the north-east, going up the gorge. The formation of these ranges, as indeed of all on this side the dividing ridge, and at this distance down the river, appears to consist of slaty rock, although what it really is, the distance prevented me from judging. On reaching the southern extremity of the basin, I sat down on a grassy bank to refresh the inner man, the sun being long past meridian, but I had hardly taken the first mouthful of my frugal meal of biscuit and cheese when a few light drops of rain warned me to be on

the move again. I hurriedly finished my dinner, and found to my intense dismay that my tobacco was wet, my pockets having got saturated from my unlucky tumble into the creek at the falls. I managed, however, with a considerable expenditure of matches, of which I had taken care to have an ample supply, to get a smoke, and went on my way rejoicing.

THE RAPIDS.

Striking into the bush at this point, I found tolerably open birch forest with low fern and supplejack, and lawyers bordering the creeks and watercourses. There was some pretty fair land along the flat, which was not a very wide one, none however of so good a quality as the average land along the Hollyford and Lake M'Kerrow. In fact, after crossing the dividing range, I did not see any country having so good a quality of soil as that on the other side, nor was the timber to be at all compared to that which I had found all the way from Martin's Bay to M'Kerrow's ford. In following the line of the river I fell across a newly blazed track, M'Kerrow's marks I supposed, which led me to an old blazed line, the one marked by Caples in all probability. This was rather difficult to follow, and I lost it several times. Presently I came back to the new blazes, and, following them, passed the site of a recent camp, the uprights of which were freshly cut. I kept to the track, the river on my right flowing over a broken boulder bottom, and in a short time arrived at a long series of rapids, the river bank rising into a precipice round the face of a lofty spur from the eastern ranges. This precipice lasted for about two or three miles, the track being well blazed all the way along it, but leading up the sides of steep rises and down rapid slopes, where sliding was the only means of progression, in a most perplexing manner. There was fortunately but little impediment in the way of bush however, so that, by dint of perseverance and the expenditure of a little perspiration, I made very good time in getting over it. I was induced to put on a little more steam than I probably should have done, by the few drops of rain which had fallen, as I wished, if possible, to cross the river before camping. Following the blazed track I lost sight of the river, although I could hear the hoarse brawling of the rapids to my right. Suddenly I came across a wide creek flowing from the eastward, and having a boulder bed. This I had not calculated on, as it was not marked in the chart, and for a moment felt rather taken aback. I followed it down, however, and found its junction with the main stream, after which I struck into the bush, open birch forest, lightly grassed, and very easy to travel through. This led me out again to a dry shingle and boulder bottomed arm of the river, having a sandy islet covered with grass and scrub, between it and the other branch, and I followed this down to the junction, where I came on a sandy beach bordering the commencement of a tolerably large grassy flat, the first of a series which ran for some distance along the lower end of the river. I got through this flat pretty well, the only objectionable part of it being the quantity of spear grass which overspread the ground, and which, even with carefully picking my way, I was unable altogether to avoid.

THE FORD OF THE ROUTEBURN.

Passing this flat, I struck again into the birch forest, and found unpleasant walking from the quantity of dead timber lying about, and the frequency of my old friends the lawyers. I saw a good-sized grassy flat, on which the spear grass had been burnt, on the opposite bank of the river, and perceiving that I was approaching another precipice on the east side, and a rapid in the stream, I decided on crossing, although I did not think I had yet reached the proper ford. From what I afterwards saw, however, I found that I might have crossed at any point above, after leaving the last sandbank. The view obtainable from this place was grand in the extreme. The ranges seemed to form a semicircle round the valley through which the river flowed, and to rise almost

perpendicularly from it on the north, south, and west sides, whilst down their sides leaped numerous creeks in foaming cataracts and cascades. I forded the river at a place having a shingle bottom, with a tolerably strong current and water that came up to just below my knees. The grassy flat extended along the bank from where I landed for about a hundred and fifty yards, when I came to open birch forest with little or no undergrowth of any kind, the land being poor, and the timber small and scrubby. There were, however, a few good-sized trees growing near the river bank, which was steep and rocky. Proceeding in an easterly direction, the course the river was now flowing, I crossed a deep gully, with a swampy creek flowing through it, and seeing an opening to the south, made for it, finding a fine flat, covered with grass and clumps of bush, stretching away to the foot of the ranges. I kept along the border of this flat until it led me into thick forest, still birch, when I turned off to the north-east again towards the river, the forest being more open in that direction. Bearing away more to the eastward, I kept in a line with the river, which was here a rapid, crossing more small grassy flats, interspersed with belts of timber, for about a mile and a half, when I entered a fine tract of open country rising in terraces from the river bank, and excellently grassed. This tract was about three-quarters of a mile in length, and half that distance in width, and extended to the foot of the ranges, which closed in towards the river and then rapidly turned off to the southward, the extreme eastern point being Upper Peak, a lofty hill with terraces along its base. Proceeding along the lower of the grassy terraces, I struck a camp situated at the western end of a belt of birch which lay between the terrace and the river, and here first saw marks of horses. I found that the camp had consisted of two tents, the bedding for which was soft and tempting, being made up of thick layers of grass overlying birch twigs. Under a veronica bush I found a brandy case, empty, near where the fire had been I found a brandy bottle, empty, and beside one of the beds another, also empty. I also found three jam tins, empty, a tin containing dripping, two or three pieces of damper, and about half a dumpling, the heads of two or three kakas, and a considerable quantity of feathers strewn about. I found a copy of the Southland Times, date torn off, and portions of two copies of the Otago Daily Times, dated respectively March 2nd and and 7th. From all this I drew three conclusions: first that the party who had camped at this spot had been well supplied with provisions; second, that they had been enjoying themselves; and third, that they had not been long away from the busy haunts of men, and were not M'Kerrow's party. Whether they had gone up the river, or whether I had followed them down I could not be sure of, their tracks going both ways. I rather thought the latter. I afterwards discovered that the party was Simpson's, that this was their main camp, and that they had left their horses in this grassy flat in charge of their cook, whilst they went on to the Hollyford. Beside what I have mentioned, I found what was far more acceptable, namely, hanging on a branch, a piece of fresh mutton, quite sweet, and weighing about three pounds, on a stone a piece of soap, and tied to a stick (a bush candlestick), about two inches of candle. Here I determined to camp, and accordingly I made a fire, opened my swag, and, fatal mistake, spread out my opossum rug to lie down on until the water boiled for tea. The rain appeared to have cleared off, and seeing at a little distance a sloping terrace I determined, before settling myself for the night, to go to the top of it and look how far the flats extended, and whether I could get round to the Dart Valley by going along the foot of Upper Peak, as, if I could, instead of keeping to the river, I should save something considerable in distance. Accordingly, I piled more wood on the fire and started, striking south-east across the flat.

A MISERABLE NIGHT.

This experiment turned out an unfor-

tunate one, as I soon found out. I reached the top of the terrace, the sloping bank of which was covered with a thick growth of fern, through which I with great difficulty forced my way, and got into an open birch forest, similar in character to those I had passed through. This had taken me longer than I anticipated, and just as I was deliberating whether I ought not to turn back, patter, patter, I heard the large drops of rain in the branches, and a heavy shower come on in a few seconds. I hurried back as rapidly as I could through the driving rain and sleet, but all too late. My opossum rug was drenched, and my provisions, or most of them, spoiled. I hung the rug on a stone, skin side outward, where, for aught I know, it still remains a warning to persons travelling in the bush, not to leave their bedding where it can get wet, for on trying to lift it next morning, I found it so heavy, that it was hopeless to think of carrying it, and I had perforce to leave it where it was. I kept up the fire for a while, making a tolerable meal of the best of my biscuit, a couple of chops from the mutton I had so luckily dropped across, and a bit of cheese. I roasted a Maori hen which Don had captured for his supper, and lighting my pipe, and enveloped in my waterproof I lay down to think what a fool I had been. In truth it was a miserable night. There was a continual downpour of rain, and until morning it was as dark as pitch, and although I tried to get a little shelter under the veronica bush where I had found the brandy case, I had soon to give that up. My fire was speedily beaten out, the ground was completely saturated, and cold, wet, dreary, and forlorn, I had no alternative but to sit down upon a stone, with my waterproof around me, bewailing my hard lot, and wearily waiting for the morrow. It was dark at 8 p.m., and there was no daylight until 7 in the morning. Oh, long wearisome eleven hours, shall I ever forget you? Never. Occasionally resting my stiff and weary limbs by feeling my way for a few yards through the wet grass, with the certainty of running my shins against a log, or my knees against the sharp spines of a spear grass bush, I sat on my stone hour after hour, thinking the day would never, never, never dawn. Sleep was of course out of the question, and although my waterproof kept my body and legs tolerably dry, my hands and feet were wet and miserably cold. My dog had coiled himself up somewhere about. I could not see him, but I could hear him get up now and then, give himself a shake, which sent the water flying as from a wet mop, and lie down again with something between a groan and a sigh. I believe I groaned, myself, more than once for company; I know I sighed several times. In short, I think it was about the most miserable night I ever spent in my life. There is an end to all things, however, and morning broke at last, misty, cold, and raw, but still morning, and I hailed the unsmiling morn. I looked disconsolately into my provision bag, and picking out the driest bits of biscuit from the olla podrida it contained, ate a slice or two of German sausage flavoured with tea and sugar. I gave the remainder of the mutton to the dog, for I could not light a fire at which to cook it, and knowing I had only one day's journey before me, made a start, this being Monday, the 28th. I went over the flat along the narrow belt of birch which bordered the river, not caring to cut across under Upper Peak, as I did not know whether I could get, and feared swamps. At the end of the flat, I came to an opening to the river, and saw that it was fortunate I had crossed the previous evening, as it was running bank high, and at a furious rate down the rapids, which I had not yet got to the end of.

THE ROUTE AGAIN.

As the day opened, the rain ceased, although for some time the sky was obscured by heavy, leaden-hued clouds. I struck into the bush, having
way for some distance thro
belt of black birch. This l
precipice covered with ope
tea tree scrub, up which I
nearly to the top before I c

river surging and boiling between the immense boulders in its bed at a rate fearful to contemplate. The climb over the precipice, fortunately, did not last long, and led me to an open flat on the river bank, below the rapids. The volume of water flowing down the river along this reach was very great, much greater than its ordinary discharge. It was discoloured, and I was convinced from what I saw that the Routeburn is impassable, except at great risk, even with a very slight flood, for one night's rain had swollen it into a raging torrent. Luckily, these mountain streams subside when the rain is over, almost as rapidly as they rise, but while they are in flood nothing can withstand their impetuosity. On reaching the flat I came across some cattle tracks, and following them along for about two miles saw some wild cattle, five or six cows and two calves. They appeared to be more afraid of me than I was of them, and scampered away full gallop as soon as they caught sight of me. I had been told that wild cattle had been seen about the junction of the Routeburn with the Dart river, and concluded therefore that I was in the neighbourhood of the confluence.

THE DART VALLEY.

A quarter of a mile's brisk walking through open bush with good grass and very little undergrowth, brought me to an open flat across which I saw the Dart right ahead of me, and on the other side the Earnslaw ranges, the lofty Mount Earnslaw towering away to the north-east, and Mount Alfred nearly opposite me. Passing the point of the bush on my right hand, the extensive valley of the Dart burst upon my view at once. At the same time, by a coincidence, the sun broke from behind a cloud, and added life and beauty to the scene. Looking in a southerly direction, the flat grassy valley stretched before me as far as the eye could reach. The valley, from the confluence of the Routeburn with the Dart to the head of the lake, is about twelve miles in length, there being flat grassy land about a mile and a half in width, for the first six miles, when it is closed in to the bank of the river (the Dart), by heavily timbered spurs from the western ranges, or rather by a steep range parallel to, but connected with, those ranges (the Humboldt Mountains). The flat is very beautiful in appearance. Bounded on the east side by the broad and rapidly flowing Dart River, and on the west by a series of wooded terraces rising into bold and noble-looking mountains, amongst which the snow crowned peak of Mount Bonpland towers to an altitude of 8102ft., the monarch of the Humboldt ranges. It is dotted here and there with clumps of dark green foliage, and long lines of toi-toi, which in the distance have the appearance of hedges, and looks more like a vast grass grown park than a wild, and almost untrodden solitude. Much of the flat lying next the river consists of beds of sand and shingle, which are wholly or partially submerged in flood time, but the remainder would furnish excellent grazing, either for sheep or cattle. As I struck into the flat, I saw clearly that I had committed an error in coming round by the river bank from my last camp, as if I had crossed the terraces at the eastern foot of Upper Peak, I should have saved a considerable angle, although I should have had to make my way through some stiff birch and tea-tree scrub. Perhaps, after all, however, I adopted the safer plan, as it is just possible that the foot of the hill may be swampy. I halted for about ten minutes on reaching the plain for the purpose of drying some tobacco and matches, and having succeeded in lighting my pipe, struck across it with a light heart. About two hours smart walking in a diagonal direction brought me, after crossing a fine creek with a shingle bottom, to the margin of the river opposite a large island which turned the main body of the stream off into a fine wide reach with deep water under a grassy bank. Keeping along the side of the river I got into a swamp, and had to turn back over a slight rise covered with scrub, and strike across an elevated tract of land, for another smaller island, where

there was a pretty wide shingle beach. Opposite this place, and between it and the slope of the hills, lay an extensive swamp with deep lagoons, and I had some difficulty in keeping clear of these. A remarkable growth of bush on the hill side here attracted my attention. It consisted of a tortuous line of birch scrub extending over perhaps a hundred acres of land, and running in irregular circles connected with each other, something like the face of a honeycomb, and resembling nothing so much as a maze. Passing the second island, the flat began to narrow, and the river to widen out, running in several streams through an intricate system of shingle banks spreading from shore to shore. I passed over a nice sandy beach, and presently came to a dense bush, timbered with fine large trees, birch, black and white pine, kowhai, and totara, the space between which was filled with impassable undergrowth. Through this I found a cut track, leading by a tortuous route over flat country to another patch of open grassy land by the river side.

THE BUSH AGAIN.

On this patch of land I found numerous sheep tracks, and after crossing it I came to another dense bush with an opening in it, leading to a cut track as before. I passed in, and soon found the land begin to rise, and the country begin to assume the character of rough open bush, something like that on the other side of the dividing range. I crossed several pretty large creeks, some by fording, others over fallen trees, and following a newly and well blazed line, ascended the face of a steep precipice, which extended about four miles along the bank of the river. This precipice, intersected with numerous waterfalls, contained much fine large timber, with sparse undergrowth, and although passing over it entailed a continual succession of ascents and descents, and much interruption from fallen timber, the travelling was not difficult. The precipice, in common with the flat over which I had just passed, abounded with birds, particularly Maori hens, which were very tame, and which fell an easy prey to my dog. The soil consisted, for the most part, of stiffish sandy loam intermingled with shale and occasional quartz shingle, with the blue sand which extends all along the lower end of the Dart in the hollows, and occasional beds of yellow clay higher up. I found more grass growing between the timber than I had seen in the Hollyford valley, and the side of the hill was dotted here and there with clumps of fuschia bush and other berry-bearing plants. By nearly midday I had got about half-way over the precipice, and taking advantage of the bed of a small stony creek, I sat down on a fallen log and nibbled as much of my remaining biscuit as I could find palatable. It was a sorry meal though, for all I could pick out was impregnated with the taste of tea, sugar, and the other contents of my wallet, and giving it up as hopeless, I emptied the contents of the bag on the ground, an offering to the birds that were singing so cheerily around me. Taking a deep draught of the clear water which flowed at my feet, I again had recourse to my never-failing source of comfort, my pipe, and resumed my journey. Another hour brought me to the end of the precipice, and I descended by a cut track through thick scrub, fern, fuchsia, veronica, and other shrubs, into a narrow grassy flat bordering the river and bounded at a little distance by the bush from which I had emerged. I skirted the river for about half a mile, passing through occasional small belts of scrub, until I came to a thicket of dwarf birch, where I struck across the flat to the westward, entering the bush again, and soon coming across the blazed line. This led me over one or two stiffish ranges, and brought me down a gully to the bed of a tolerably wide and rapidly flowing creek where the blazes terminated. I crossed a little way up into an open birch forest bordered on the further side by a very dense scrub. By making a zig-zag line through this, I found the cut track, and followed it until it led me out to the north west corner of the last grassy flat lying in an extensive bend.

the entrance of the Dart River into Lake Wakatipu.

HEAD OF LAKE WAKATIPU.

Crossing this flat in an oblique direction for the river bank, I came across sheep, and here I knew I was to look for the first human habitation between Martin's Bay and the Lake, Robertson and Co.'s woolshed. Nearing the river I saw on the other side of the head of the lake, and lying under the singular formation of terraces at the foot of the Richardson range, Mr Butement's station and the small township of Glenorchy. Owing to a rise in the ground, some intervening patches of birch scrub, and the high grass I could not, from this point, make out the woolshed on this side the river, and seeing a small hut in a bend along the western shore of the lake, I changed my course, striking across the flat westward for the bush again, in order to save walking, as I thought. I had better have left well alone, however, for I had not gone far before I found myself in the middle of a grass covered swamp, which grew deeper as I went further into it. I persevered, nevertheless, and had the satisfaction, when I had reached the edge of the bush, of seeing that I might have saved my labour, as the scrub was next to impassable, and that the woolshed I was looking for was on the other side of the swamp, the place, in fact, whence I had, at so much toil, just come. I crossed the swamp back again, making for a place where a belt of dwarf birch showed, as I thought, solid ground. I found that it was a mere ring of scrub environing a small shallow lagoon. Making my way through the swamp, which took me half way to the knees at every step, and through which ran a number of narrow but deep watercourses, I reached firmer walking, and struck across the flat for the woolshed. There was no one there when I reached it, and I therefore struck off for the west side of the lake, at a distance down which I could discern Robertson and Co.'s sawmills, my point of destination. A short walk brought me to a creek which I crossed, thereby getting to the sandy and shingly north west lake beach. In another two or three hundred yards I came to the place where the shore curves off sharply to the southward, and seeing a track, struck into the bush, not feeling sure that I should be able to get all the way along the beach. Shortly after entering the bush, I had the gratification of meeting Mr John M'Bride, one of the partners in the saw mill, driving a pair of bullocks to graze in the flat I had just left. From this gentleman, who was, I have no doubt, extremely astonished to meet a solitary wanderer in such an out of the way place, I received the utmost courtesy and the most generous treatment, and I here take the opportunity of thanking him for the kindness I experienced at his hands. On my informing him who I was, where I had come from, and the nature of my mission, he at once relieved me of my swag, insisting on carrying it, and notwithstanding my eminently disreputable appearance, invited me to make his house my home during the short time I remained at the head of the lake. He took me by a short cut through the bush, calling in at one of the sawyers' tents on the way, where we, or at any rate I, for I was ravenously hungry, made a hearty meal. We then proceeded to the saw-mill, where there is quite a pretty little township built on the steep border of the lake, and where he took me to his house. He furnished me with some presentable clothing, trousers, socks, and boots, for my own were saturated with water and ripped almost to pieces. After a yarn and a comfortable tea with himself and Mrs M'Bride, to whom I owe many thanks for her kind treatment, I retired to rest, and slept soundly until Mr M'Bride awoke me the following morning with the intelligence that breakfast was ready.

DOWN LAKE WAKATIPU.

I may be considered as having reached the end of my journey, so far as the object for which I had visited the West Coast was concerned. I had traversed the route between Lake M'Kerrow and Lake Wakatipu, by the Hollyford and

Routeburn rivers, a distance, as I estimate, of from forty-eight to fifty miles, in three and a half days, although I have no doubt that any person not overburdened with swag, and meeting with tolerably good weather, could do it in three days without any difficulty. I am sure that I could do it easily in that time, now I know the route, which with proper instructions is not a difficult one to trace. In coming over, however, Mr Thomson and myself lost quite half a day in looking for the crossing of the Hollyford, and when we found it, the day was too far advanced for us to attempt the climb up to the saddle. On my arrival at the saw-mill I found that the steamer which plies between Queenstown and the head of the lake once a week, had left on the previous Saturday, (taking down Mr Simpson and his road survey men, who formed the party, the tracks of whom I had fallen across so frequently between the Hollyford crossing and Lake Wakatipu), and that she would not leave again until the following Saturday. This being much too long for me to think of waiting, I decided to come down the lake as far as the mouth of the Greenstone River, about four miles away, in order to get a passage in a small cutter which had come up the lake for firewood. In the event of her being gone, I intended to be put across the lake from the small settlement at that place, and to walk down the eastern shore—a distance of about 25 miles. After breakfast, therefore, on Tuesday, the 29th, bidding good-bye to my generous host and hostess, who insisted on my retaining the dry clothing they had furnished me with until I could find an opportunity of sending them back, I started at an early hour along the west bank of the lake in a southerly direction. I first tried the beach, but found it difficult to travel over, from the number of fallen trees lying across it. I came across the tent of a firewood cutter about half a mile from the sawmills, who expressed great interest in the new settlement at Martin's Bay, on learning that I had just come from it. The same interest, indeed, was expressed by every person I met on the lake, and the highest satisfaction was evinced at my statement, that I believed that for three-fourths of the year the track was practicable. At this point I struck into the bush, traversing a rough track, and saw from the point of a jutting spur the small craft of which I was in search lying at anchor lower down. Passing another tent, where I had a pannikin of tea, a smoke, and a chat with the owner, who accompanied me during the remainder of my journey, I soon reached the boat—the Gazelle—lying about three miles from the sawmills, and saw her owner, Mr M'Ewen, of Queenstown. I arranged with him for a passage down, and whilst sitting on the beach, waiting to start, laid out the contents of my swag o dry in the sun, a process which was only partially successful. At about noon the boat got under way, but the wind fell off immediately, and a dead calm came on before we had made a mile of headway. This was exceedingly annoying, but it could not be helped, and we had to make what progress we could with the aid of the sweeps. Very slow, and very laborious work it was, as we could not get more than two miles an hour out of the boat, even with the assistance of what occasional cats paws we caught, and they were very few. A light air sprang up, however, during the night, and took us round White Point into the middle arm of the lake, so that when I got out of my bunk the following morning, Wednesday, the 30th, we were within about seven miles from our destination, being, in fact just past Eightmile Point, and becalmed. By dint of pulling we got to within three miles of Queenstown, when a ludicrous incident occurred to relieve the monotony of the voyage. Mr M'Ewen had purchased a young pig on his upward trip, and was bringing it home. In order to ensure its safety, it having escaped and been recaptured at the head of the lake, he had tied it up in a bag the previous night, and in the morning taken it and tied it by the leg to the thwa the dingy, which was towing astern.

some means the juvenile porker freed himself from his bonds, and jumped overboard, making for the shore, about a quarter of a mile distant, and swimming like a water spaniel. The crew, who was also cook and mate, immediately jumped into the dingy and gave chase, and after considerable trouble succeeded in capturing the swimaway, who twisted and doubled in the water as cleverly as a duck. At about 8 o'clock a light wind sprung up, giving the Gazelle an opportunity of showing her sailing powers, and taking us into Queenstown in good time for breakfast. Whilst here I met two men going over to Martin's Bay by the same route I had just come. They had been sent by parties in Canterbury to look for grazing country, and to report on the general character of the settlement. I gave them directions for the track, and I believe they started on the following day. On the following morning, Thursday, the 31st March, I left Queenstown, arriving in Cromwell at night, and remaining there until Sunday, when I left for the Dunstan, coming down in Cobb's coach, which started thence on Monday morning, the 4th April, and arrived in Dunedin on Tuesday, the 5th, at 5 p.m., after an absence of six weeks.

In concluding this record of my journey, I take the opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr Strachan, the Government draughtsman at the new settlement, for his courtesy and kindness; to the other members of the survey party, for their invariable readiness to afford me any information in their power; and once more to Mr Thomson, who, I regret to learn, met with an accident in going back from Lake Harris, and who was detained three days in the bush by the flooded state of the creeks. I observe that the Charles Edward has been successfully raised, the hole in her bow stopped, and that she steamed out of the river for Hokitika without further accident.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

Now that the fact is established that there is a practicable, and comparatively short, route overland from the head of the Lake Wakatipu to the head of Lake M'Kerrow, there is little doubt that many persons, and, in particular, those who reside in the north-western settlements of Otago, who may wish to visit or settle in the newly formed district of Martin's Bay, will prefer the land journey to the sea voyage from either Dunedin or Hokitika, and it is to the attention of these persons that this chapter is specially recommended. By careful perusal, and minute attention to the instructions herein given, not only may the journey be shortened in distance, and consequent length of time, but many of its difficulties and unpleasantnesses may be removed, and the possibility of taking the wrong track, or travelling in the wrong direction, avoided. These instructions refer, of course, only to the present line of route, it being quite likely that Mr Simpson, who has started with a road party, and, in fact, commenced operations in making a road between the two lakes, may find occasion to diverge from the line which both he and I came over between Lake Wakatipu and Lake Harris. Beyond that, it is his intention, instead of descending to the Hollyford at once, to get an easy gradient by cutting down the west side of the ranges, striking the Hollyford at Pyke's Creek, and thus saving a long distance, making the entire road, in fact, not much over 34 or 35 miles in length. Until that is done, however, and although there are, in my own opinion, no insurmountable engineering difficulties in the way, it must of necessity be a work of considerable time, travellers will have to be content with the present track, which, I believe, can be got over in moderately fine weather for nine months in the year.

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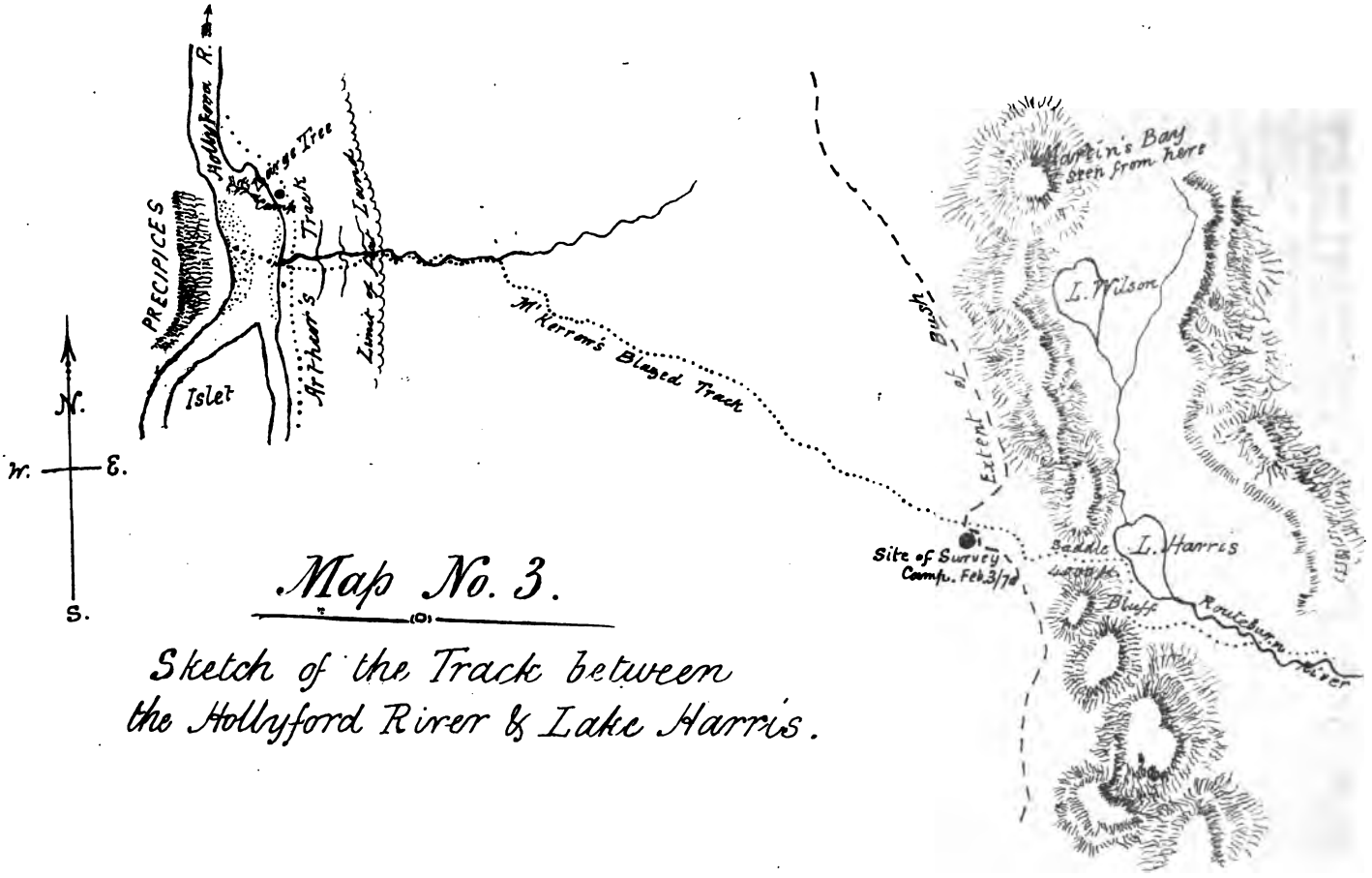
During the winter season, and when the snow lies on the saddle, it would be extremely unsafe to try a passage, as the bluff at Lake Harris would be very dangerous at such a time, even if travellers could get so far. Presuming that the traveller is starting from Queenstown, he can get to the head of Lake Wakatipu, whence these directions conduct him, either by steamer, at present leaving once a week, by occasional small sailing vessel, or by land (about 30 miles), along the north and east shore of the lake to the township of Glenorchy (Butement's), where he can be ferried over to the west side. The track may then be divided for convenience into three parts, the portion of the road from the sawmills to Lake Harris, that from Lake Harris to the Hollyford river, and that thence to the head of Lake M'Kerrow. Starting therefore at the sawmills, which lie a mile or a mile and a-half from the head of Lake Wakatipu, on its western shore (see map No. 2), take either the beach or the bush track northerly until you come to the head of the lake. Keep round the head of the lake along the shingle bank until you make the woolshed, which lies across a creek, and a little distance back from the lake. Cross the grassy flat by the woolshed, bearing well to the right, so as to avoid swamps on the left. Keep on until you come to a patch of bush. Turn to the west (left) along it, and you will see a cut and blazed track through the scrub. This will lead you to a good sized creek, which cross, and you will see blazes on the trees on the bank at the other side. Follow the track through the bush, and cross the grassy flat along the river. You will come to another cut track leading to a well blazed line over a long precipice. Leaving this, strike along the river bank, keeping a good look out for tracks, and you will come to another blazed line through thick bush. Leaving this, keep along the river bank to avoid swamps, until you pass two islands, when you may strike across the flat, making for Upper Peak, which you can pass close under. Another road from here is to keep the flat until you strike the Routeburn, about a quarter of a mile from its confluence with the Dart. If you take the latter road, follow the cattle tracks to the west, keeping along the river, and passing along the face of a precipice. Both these roads will bring you out into a fine grassy flat. Go along the terrace until you come to the end of a belt of bush fringing the Routeburn. Here you will find a large camp, This is a good place to have dinner. Follow the grassy flats along the river, passing through two or three belts of open forest until you have got clear of the rapids, and come to a sudden bend in the river with a grassy flat on the other side. Cross at this place, and keep along the river until you are through a boulder bottomed arm with a sandy island in the middle. Strike into the bush, keeping along the river until you find the marked track. This will lead you to the ford of a stony creek, which cross, and a blazed line will take you to the other side of the precipice. Follow the track, and go straight across the grassy flat you will come out at, keeping on the right hand side of the river. At the other side you will come to the foot of the lower falls. There is a steep rise here of eleven hundred feet. You may not be able to find the track easily, and the ascent will take you over two hours, so that if you are late you had better camp for the night. You will, however, find a preferable camping ground on the plateau at the top of the falls. This will make one good day's journey. Leaving your camp, keep along the right bank of the river until you reach the top of the upper falls, being careful of a dangerous rocky bluff near the top. You will come then into the basin below the outlet of the river from Lake Harris, which you will see. Cross the river about a quarter of a mile below the outlet, and make for the sloping part of the high bluff on the west side the lake. Go round the shelving ledge carefully, it is dangerous, and take care to keep high enough up. After rounding the rocky bluff you will come to grassy flat of the saddle (map 3). St

off thence in a westerly direction down the back of the saddle. This will lead you in a direct line to an opening in the scrub, on the left of which you will see the old survey camp. Keep straight on and find the blazed line in the bush. This will lead you down the west side of the range by a very precipitous descent requiring steadiness and care. The end of the blazed line brings you to a creek with a deepish bed. Follow this down for half a mile, passing over two landslips on the right (north) bank. Keep a bright look out for the blaze in the bush when you leave the creek on the left hand (south), and when found follow it to two marked trees (A. M'K. and A. W., 1870). Here you come to M'Kerrow's Ford, which is a good place for dinner. (Large map, 1.) You can cross the Hollyford here, and keep down the opposite bank, but the better plan is to follow the old well blazed line (Arthur's) from the marked trees down the right (eastern) bank of the river until you come to the end of the line, where you will find the remains of a Maori whare. This is the ford, and you will find the line on the other side. If you do not keep as near the river as possible, in coming to a large stony creek, keep above the fall in crossing. Get back to the river, and you will find a long shingle beach going round a large bend in the river. You will find good camping ground with beaches and plenty of drift wood, about a mile beyond this. Leaving your camp, keep along the blazed line, taking care not to go too far from the river if you lose it. You will find a good place for dinner at an old camp in some tutu bush at the end of a boulder bedded flood channel, just before you ascend the first large precipice which you will see before you. The precipice has a well marked track across it. Be careful not to go too high, or you will come to perpendicular bluffs. After passing the mouth of Pyke's Creek, which you will see, you may find easy walking if you keep to the marked line, otherwise it is difficult. Over most of the large creeks about here you will find fallen trees. There is a good track leading across the second precipice, after which be careful in crossing the steep-banked creek. It has a very strong current, and a treacherous bottom after rain. The remainder of your journey is plain enough. Keep to the river, and find the widest places for crossing the three stony creeks, after passing which you will see the island at the head of the lake before you. Keep the track through the fern, along the high terrace: you will find it the easiest. Camp on the flat where the river enters the lake. To get from the head of the lake to the settlement, entails some further difficulty. It can, however, be done by walking along the face of the hills on either side, until you come to the flat land, about nine miles down. A cooey will be heard at the settlement, or a fire seen, from the point opposite it on the west (left hand) side, and the beach on the east (right hand) side will take you directly to it, about half a mile after passing the large (Hokuri) creek which can be forded about 150 yards up, except in wet weather, when it is dangerous. Of course these instructions, reversed, will serve for the journey from Lake M'Kerrow to Lake Wakatipu.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY.

The general characteristic of that portion of what may be called the Hollyford Valley, included between the entrance to the lower Hollyford river at Martin's Bay, and the head of the lake, strikes me as being such as we might expect to find did we know that the valley had at one time been the bed of a very much larger lake than at present exists, one which, in fact, extended over the whole of the flat land now bordering it on both sides, and reaching to the bases of the mountains at the back. I was impressed with this idea from the nature of the soil, and its underlying strata, when I first visited the lake, and subsequent investigation only confirmed me in the opinion. Starting back from the lake itself, it will be found that the beaches consist of water-worn gravel and sub-angular shingle composed of fragments of quartz, granite, felstone,



Map No. 3.

Sketch of the Track between the Hollyford River & Lake Harris.

and porphyry, and that further inland, and even where the soil has been deeply deposited, the same character of shingle exists underneath. In the few places where the river has washed away the bank so as to lay bare the formation, this may easily be seen, and as the deposit along the entire valley is purely aqueous, there is no other way to account for it. Besides this, the terraces which lie along the bases of the hills point to a similar conclusion, and whether it be accounted for by the theory of gradual upheaval, or by that of subsidence and gradual erosion by floods and freshets of the lower end of the lake, the conclusion remains the same. The mountains that overhang the lake, and that surround the flats, are formed of greenish porphyritic rock, changing into felspathic and quartzose granite in the higher parts. Some of them, and particularly those on the west side, display chlorite schist containing veins of white quartz and siliceous felstone, and occasionally alternated by strata of limestone, and sandstone conglomerates and carbonaceous grits. The mountains lying further back from the lake on the eastern side also show occasional traces of carbonaceous shale passing into clay slate, which may or may not be an evidence of the existence of coal in the neighbourhood. Further up the river, the debris is composed in a great measure of morainic matter, generally boulders of blue and grey granite, syenite, gneiss, and greenstone, with conglomerates of granitic gravel, and aphanitic sandstone. Occasionally, in the steep creek beds, micaceous rocks may be found, and in two places I saw carbonaceous shale and fragments of blue slate. The bluffs forming the heads of Martin's Bay are bold and rocky, and are strewn with immense blocks and boulders of granite, gneiss, and hard conglomerate of small pebbles and silt, intermingled with blocks and small shingle of quartz. In most of the creeks, particularly those at some distance up the Upper Hollyford, the general appearance, both of the creek beds and of the banks, betokens the existence of gold, although from the rapidity with which they flow, and the large quantity of detritus which they bring down in time of flood, caused by the sudden melting of snow and ice in the ranges, the probability is that the greater part of the auriferous deposit lies at some distance below the present level of their beds.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS.

The Martin's Bay district, and the whole of the Hollyford Valley, are exceedingly rich in vegetable productions. The timber which grows along the banks of the lake and the river is for the most part of large size, and contains many of the kinds most valuable for the purposes of the builder, the carpenter, and the shipwright. The pines, of which there are three distinct varieties growing in abundance, the white, the red, and the black, in particular, attain gigantic proportions, many of them being from 60 to 70 ft. straight bole, and being four feet in diameter. The birches are, however, most numerous, and some of them grow to an immense size, the most common sorts are the red and the black birch, the latter more properly a beech (*fagus*). Other trees, of more or less value, which grow in abundance all over the flats, and up the lower parts of the ranges, are totara, rata (*metrosideros lucida*), often very large; particularly on the sides of the hills, mako-mako (*aristotellia racemosa*), kowhai (*sophora grandiflora*), and mapu (*pittosporum*). The whole of these trees are useful for one purpose or other, and may be obtained in almost unlimited quantity in the district. The inferior trees and shrubs are almost numberless, comprising nearly all the plants known in New Zealand. They comprise tutu (*coriaria ruscifolia*), fig (*panax arboreus*), grass tree (*dracophyllum*), various; supplejack (*ripogonum scandens*), laurel (*senecio*), willow (*epilobium*), veronica, various; alder, tea tree (*leptospermum*), hini-hini (*elæocarpus*), lawyer bush (*rubus australis*), various kinds; *celmisia*, New Zealand holly (*olearia ilicifolia*), star plant (*olearia operina*), and toi-toi (*cyperus ustulatus*)

Some of the lianes, such as supple-jacl

and lawyers, attain a very large size, and completely choke up large tracts of the country, rendering it totally impassable. In, and bordering swamps, and on poor land, the birch deteriorates into a mere useless scrub, and is generally interspersed with patches of tea-tree and other swamp bushes. In the higher parts of the mountains, large patches of dwarf box and birch scrub are found, and the rocks are overgrown with soft beds of deep lichen. The better quality of soil, and particularly in those spots where the timber attains the largest size, is much overgrown with ferns, some of which grow to a great height. They are of the rarest, as well as the commonest kinds, and comprise mamuka (*cyathea medullaris*), the core of which is eaten by the Maoris; *dicksonia squarrosa*, *aspidium*, *trichomanes reniformis*, *pteris aquilina*, *lomaria*, *leptopteris superba*, and numerous others. Except in the swamps, grass may practically be said to be unknown, the large quantity of vegetable matter covering the soil completely forbidding its growth, nor is it probable that horse or cattle feed, except hini-hini, on which they are said to thrive, will be at all available until the land is greatly cleared from the heavy timber and thick undergrowth which at present encumbers it.

CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.

The soil, which is rich but rank, would, I have no doubt, produce all kinds of vegetables in profusion, and there are patches here and there that might grow wheat; but, until the land be cleared, and the soil sweetened by sun and air, I fear that cereals, except the coarser sorts, would never come to a head. They would grow too fast, and expend their strength in mere stalk. This, however, is a matter for the consideration of those who take up land for agricultural purposes, and who will no doubt put such crops into their land [illegible] consider them best capable of [illegible]. There is no question that the Martin's Bay district, consisting of alluvial deposit, and the siliceous particles washed [illegible] mountains, and being enriched by decayed vegetable matter, is capable of being cultivated successfully if proper means were adopted for sweetening the soil, such, for instance, as an extensive burning of the ferns, undergrowth, roots, and small timber growing on the land, in order that the potash contained in the ashes might render it suitable to the requirements of plants. This, with turning up the earth for some time before cropping would purge it from the many impurities with which almost all virgin soil is charged, would reduce its abnormal richness, and give it a natural and healthy degree of strength. It is probable that, although the land abutting on the lake will be that most eagerly seized by the first settlers, it will by no means be found the most valuable. In addition to the top soil being thinner at that place than it is further back, it is not unlikely that the continual percolation of lake water through the shingle bottom may have a tendency to rise by capillary attraction, and so to saturate the soil itself, as to wash much of the earthy salts out of it, and render it weak and unfit for much save meadow land. This, however, is mere theory, and may have no practical foundation. The first objection, however, to the land immediately bordering the lake is more tangible. It is a fact, that as the country rises toward the base of the hills, the soil increases in depth, so that while in places, say half a mile back, four or five feet of solid soil may be obtained before coming to the shingle, not more than two or three inches can be found for two or three hundred yards on the sloping banks from the lake. The same rule does not apply so much to the river flats, which are generally higher, and, where sloping, have a more rapid rise.

THE CLIMATE.

Of the climate of Martin's Bay, beyond what I experienced during my stay of nearly five weeks, I can, of course, say nothing. I found it a very variable one, but altogether I was favourably impressed with it. I had been informed before leaving Dunedin, that the climate was

something horrible, and that wind, rain, and sleet were the rule, almost without exception. I found it very different, however. The changes of weather were very sudden, and the bad weather was really bad whilst it lasted, but we had much more fine weather than foul during my stay. Out of the five weeks I was there, we had certainly three weeks that might be called fine. The day we arrived at the Bay was a lovely one; but the following day (Sunday) heavy rain set in about noon, and continued until Tuesday midday, when we had fine weather. On Thursday, a north wind set in, bringing with it heavy rain and generally unpleasant weather; but the following day was fine, as was also Saturday until noon, when the north wind came round again, with more bad weather, which lasted until Tuesday. From that until Thursday the weather was fine, when there were some light showers and thick mist, with one or two heavy falls of rain, until Friday night; but on Saturday morning, the 12th March, the weather cleared up, and with the exception of one wet day, and one misty one, with a sprinkling of rain, was as lovely as I have ever experienced, until Sunday night the 27th. The fine weather is really fine, a clear blue sky, a light temperate breeze, and no great amount of heat. In fact, during the time I was at Martin's Bay, I neither experienced extreme heat nor cold. The climate was equable and very mild. I daresay there is absolutely a greater rainfall there than on the East Coat, for when it rains, it rains in earnest; but I do not think there are so many wet days in the course of the year in that district as in this.

THE FAUNA.

The district of Martin's Bay, so far as I could see and learn, is singularly devoid of land mammalia. During the entire time I was there I did not come across an animal of any kind, nor did I hear of any person who had. Considering the great quantity of fern growing in the district, it is somewhat to be wondered at that native pigs, which congregate in vast numbers in some of the valleys of New Zealand, are not to be found there. I believe they exist on the coast side of the ranges which divide the Hollyford Valley from Milford Sound, but neither along the Hollyford, nor yet down the Routeburn or Dart Valleys did I see any traces of them. At a distance of about fourteen or fifteen miles up the first named river, I saw two holes, which I took to be those of rats, but as they were in broken ground, it is possible they might be those of kiwis or kakapos, which birds are rarely found except in country of that description. Seals are sometimes found on the rocky bluffs along the coast, and in the inland lakes and rivers a large otter, the Waitoreke of the Maoris, is said to exist. Whilst living on the sand bank at the mouth of the river I saw several scorpions, resembling those of Australia, but smaller, in the sand. They appeared to be pretty numerous at that place, but whether they were venomous or not I had no opportunity of judging, as no one was stung by them. The bay and mouth of the river abound with fish, some of which come up to where the water is only slightly brackish. Blue and rock cod, trumpeter, barracouta, soldier fish, firemen, the latter somewhat resembling mullet, sea perch, and cray fish can be readily caught, and most of them are excellent eating. Mussels of large size, and mutton fish (*Haliotis*), are also found in large numbers among the kelp washed up on the beach. The only fresh water fish I saw in Lake M'Kerrow and the Hollyford river were flounders and whitebait (*Electrio*), the latter called Inangas by the Maoris; although I believe that eels of very large size are numerous in the lakes. Some of the streams, the Hokuri Creek for instance, would be admirably adapted for trout.

The flies are very numerous, comprising sandflies, mosquitoes, and large blowflies. The two former are great pests, and the latter are exceedingly troublesome, depositing their larvæ on blankets and clothing, as well as on food to which they can gain access. The birds are also very numerous, and comprise

very many varieties. The most remarkable is the kiwi (*Apteryx*), a small bird of the ostrich family (*Struthionidae*). They have no wings, or rather what wings they have are merely rudimentary, and they therefore cannot fly. The feathers are long and very narrow, and are greatly prized by the Maoris, who use them for making their best mats. This singular bird is rarely seen except at night, as during the day it hides itself in a hole in the rough ground in the birch forests. The kakapo, a night parrot (*Strigops habroptilus*), is a kind of yellowish green owl, also making its nest in a hole in the ground, and coming out at night. I was not so fortunate as to see specimens of either of these birds during my visit to the Martin's Bay territory, although I frequently heard them at night, the kiwi having a peculiar cry, sounding something like its name; and the kakapo a harsh screech unlike the cry of any other bird. The natives and settlers catch these birds with dogs and by means of snares—generally a thread of flax with a running noose tied to the end of a stick. Another bird which is caught in the same way, is the wood hen, or as it is usually called the Maori hen—the Weka of the Maoris (*Ocydromus Australis*), a kind of rail. The bush abounds with large wood pigeons, called by the Maoris kuku (*Carpophaga Novae Zealandiae*), thrushes (*Turnagra crassirostris*), kakarika parrots, starlings (*Aplonis*), moreporks, crows, kakas, and tuis, or parson birds, so called from the double white throat tuft, not unlike clerical bands (*Prosthemadera Novae Zealandiae*). There are also several species of small birds, larks and finches, and the New Zealand robin, a black bird with a white breast, is rarely harmed, being a great favourite from its tameness and confidence in man. It may be seen hopping all about the settlement. On one occasion, when in the bush, one of these birds perched on my gun, and did I camp without two or three on coming round, and inquisitively examining me and my proceedings. Their curious black eyes. The birds are very numerous, and afford fine sport. They comprise herons, cranes, blue, grey, and paradise ducks, teal, plover, redbills, and cormorants. Round the coast are the usual sea-birds, albatrosses, petrels, white and grey gulls, and Cape pigeons. I saw a few small moths, common grey and black ones, and several dragon flies, but none that called for particular notice.

SETTLEMENT AND SETTLERS.

The settlement at Martin's Bay is, I think, destined to be a successful undertaking. It may be a work of time, but I believe that the district contains the elements of a large and prosperous township and surrounding agricultural neighbourhood. There are, however, numerous difficulties to be overcome before that desirable issue can come to pass. At the lower end of the lake, on the banks of the lower, and all along the upper Hollyford, there is plenty of good land, but it is all heavily overgrown with timber; and before it is at all available it needs clearing—a work of time and expense. I am inclined to think that the country, with proper tillage, will produce any kind of crops, but the land must first be properly treated, and the soil sweetened by being broken up and exposed to the air. The timber itself, which, to the settler, is now the great incubus, might be made a source of income, for it is there of the best kind and quality, and in any quantity. Were saw mills established on the shores of the lake, there would be no lack of material for many years to come; and what is a matter of no small consequence, vessels of moderate size, drawing say, eight or nine feet of water, could convey it right away from the mills to the market, wherever that might be. I am inclined to think that this ought to be the first step towards making the settlement at Martin's Bay a large and prosperous one. I do not know sufficient of the timber trade to argue the matter of profit and loss, *pro* and *con*, but merely point out that the timber is there in abundance, that there is plenty of available water power, and that there is every facility for shipment. The gold

bearing capabilities of the district are, as yet, but little known. Beyond the fact that a few prospectors have obtained the precious metal, in and about the neighbourhood, we have no reliable data. We may express our opinion, based on the formation of the country and the appearance of the creeks, and the geological structure of the surrounding ranges; but of the practical value of the auriferous deposit, presuming it to exist, we know next to nothing. Gold has been obtained in Big Bay, and is known to exist along the coast northward. It has also, as late intelligence informs us, been found on the eastern side of the dividing range, and the whole valley of the Hollyford, and the beds of its tributary streams, have the appearance of gold bearing country. Nothing, however, less than absolute prospecting will decide the question, and not until this fine river has been properly tried, and the real bottom, which, as I have said before, I believe lies deep, is found, will gold mining be a profitable calling at Martin's Bay. At present, I candidly confess, I do not see how this is to be done. In order to induce miners to try the place, it is necessary in the first place that they should know that when there they can obtain provisions. They cannot do so now, and unless they take supplies round with them by steamer, those going over must starve, or live on what the bush will afford them, inasmuch as it is practically impossible for persons going overland to take with them much more than will be necessary for the journey. Since my arrival at Queenstown, I have spoken to scores of men, miners and others, many of whom have expressed a desire to go to the new settlement, and, almost without exception, one of the first questions they have put to me has been, "Are there any means of getting provisions there?" I have had, of course, to answer in the negative. To persons going over for the purpose of settlement, sufficient will have been said to show them that they must calculate the cost before taking up land for agricultural purposes at Martin's Bay. The ground entails much hard labour to be expended on it in the way of clearing, before it can be available for cultivation, and men must live in the meantime. If, however, they can weather the difficulty and delay, their crops will, I confidently believe, amply repay them for their trial, and I have little hesitation in affirming that with men of the right pioneer stamp, the new settlement at Martin's Bay will, ere long, become one of the most promising in Otago; what is now a wild and almost impassable bush, will be dotted with smiling homesteads, and the dark and tangled forest-covered flats be transformed into verdant meadows and fields of golden grain.

MARTIN'S BAY.

REGULATIONS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, AS REQUIRED BY THE OTAGO SETTLEMENT ACT, 1869, FOR THE SETTLEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MARTIN'S BAY.

The land set apart at Martin's Bay, by resolution of the Provincial Council, will be divided into 4 classes, A B C and D, respectively.

CLASS A.

1. Class A will comprise a block of 10,000 acres, which shall be divided into four sections, each section containing 50 allotments of 50 acres each.

2. Free grants shall be made, subject to the provisions of the "Otago Settlement Act, 1869," and of these Regulations, of the allotments in each of the said sections.

3. The conditions of every such free grant shall be—

(a) That the applicant therefor shall not be under 16 years of age.

(b) That he shall have actually resided upon the land for which he shall apply, for a period of at least two years, and in a period of three years, during which he shall have lawfully occupied the said land.

(c) That it shall be a condition of every such free grant that such public roads as may be deemed necessary may be taken through the land comprised therein, free of all compensation, save charges and expenses whatever: Provided that such right is exercised within five years of the date of the certificate of occupation of such land.

(d) The right of taking a public road may be exercised by laying down and delineating the course of such road, and the width thereof, upon any public map kept in the office of the Chief Surveyor of the Province of Otago.

(e) Whenever any public road shall have been laid down and delineated upon any public map kept in the office of the Chief Surveyor of the Province of Otago, within the said period of five years, and notice of the laying down of such road shall have been given to the grantee, his heirs, or assigns, all the right, title, and interest of the grantee, his heirs, or assigns, in that portion of the land comprised in the grant through or over which the said road shall be so laid down, shall cease and determine in the same manner, and to the same extent, as if the portion of the said land comprised in the said road had been conveyed by the grantee, his heirs, or assigns, to the Superintendent of Otago, in trust for a public road for the use of the inhabitants of the said Province.

4. An applicant with a family of not less than 4 children under 15 years of age shall be entitled to a free grant of two allotments, but no other applicant shall be entitled to, or shall receive, a free grant for more than one such allotment.

Mode of Selection.

Every applicant for any such allotment

shall register his name in a book to be kept at the Martin's Bay District Land Office, and shall thereupon be entitled to receive from the officer in charge a certificate of occupation of the lot or lots selected by him.

So soon as the person to whom such certificate shall have been issued shall prove to the satisfaction of the Superintendent that he has resided upon his allotment for the space of two years, out of a period of three years from the date of such certificate, he shall be entitled to receive a Crown Grant of such allotment, free of cost: Provided that such Grant shall be applied for within three years of the date of the certificate of occupation.

If the person to whom any certificate of occupation for any such allotment, being a married man, shall die prior to the issue to him of the Crown Grant for such allotment, his widow shall be entitled to have the certificate of occupation for such allotment transferred into her own name, on presentation of such certificate at the District Land Office, and to receive a Crown Grant of such allotment to herself, after she has resided thereon for a period of two years out of a period of three years from the date of the certificate; and the period during which her husband shall have resided upon the said allotment before his death, shall be computed as residence by his widow.

Town and Suburban Allotments.

1. A town shall be laid out in the said settlement, and suburban allotments shall be laid out contiguous thereto.

2. The Town Lands shall be divided into quarter-acre allotments as nearly as may be.

3. All Town Lands shall (except as next hereinafter provided) be sold by public auction at an upset price of five pounds each.

4. Each holder of a certificate of occupation for an allotment under Class A shall be entitled to select one town allotment, and to purchase the same at a fixed price of two pounds ten shillings, provided that the right of selection is exercised within twelve months from the date of the issue of the certificate of occupation.

Suburban Land.

1. Suburban allotments of five acres in extent shall be laid off contiguous to the said town.

2. Every such allotment for the time being remaining unsold shall twice at the least in every year be offered for sale by auction, at an upset price of one pound per acre, and sold to the highest bidder.

3. No suburban allotment shall be sold otherwise than by auction.

CLASS B.

1. Class B shall comprise 30,000 acres; and lands in this class to the extent of, not exceeding, 100 acres to each person, shall be sold at five shillings an acre to the first applicant.

2. The Government shall have the right to take public roads, as specified under Class A; such right to be exercised in the same manner and within the same period, and with the same consequences to the grantee, his heirs, and assigns, in the event of the exercise of such right, and notice to him or them as specified in the regulations under said Class A.

3. If the same piece of land shall be applied for by more than one person, upon the same day, the land so applied for shall be put up to auction at an upset price of five shillings an acre, and shall be sold to the highest bidder.

4. Any person who shall have purchased and paid for 100 acres of land in Class B, and who shall be desirous of purchasing a further quantity, shall be permitted to do so at the rate of ten shillings per acre.

CLASS C.

1. Class C shall comprise 60,000 acres, and shall be sold as the Waste Land Board shall determine, either at public auction at an upset price of five shillings an acre, or to the first applicant at a fixed price of ten shillings an acre: Provided

always that not more than 500 acres shall be sold to any one person, and that in the event of there being more than one applicant for the same land on the same day, then and in that case the land so applied for shall be put up to auction at an upset price of ten shillings an acre, and sold to the highest bidder.

2. All land sold under this class shall be subject to the same conditions with respect to the right to take public roads, and the manner and time of exercising such right, and the consequences to the grantee, his heirs, and assigns, in the event of the exercise thereof and notice to him or them as hereinbefore, are provided in the regulations respecting Class A.

Class D.

1. Class D shall comprise all mineral Lands, and shall be sold or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the provisions contained in Sections 52 to 63, inclusive, of the "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1866."

In all cases of the sale or other disposal of land in any of the said classes under these Regulations, the provisions of the "Otago Waste Lands, 1866," shall, subject to these Regulations and to the provisions of the "Otago Settlement Act, 1869," be applied as far as circumstances will admit of.

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(ESTABLISHED MARCH, 1867.)

Registered under the "Building and Land Societies' Act, 1866."

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Offices: Princes Street, Next Bank of Otago.

ENTRANCE FEE, 2s. 6d. PER SHARE; TRANSFER FEE, 6d. PER SHARE.

THE SHARES OF THIS SOCIETY will be of the ultimate value of £25, to be realised by Monthly Subscriptions of 4s. per Share, and interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, to be accumulated till the Shares are fully realised (about seven years.)

This Society has been established on the PERMANENT PRINCIPLE. Advances to Members are not determined by competition, nor are Borrowers charged more than will defray the cost of management, and pay Investors a fair rate of interest on the amount of their Subscriptions. The surplus Profits (if any) are carried to the credit of a Contingent Fund, and any accumulation thereof may, at the discretion of the Directors, be divided equitably and equally, at the end of every Five Years from the commencement of the Society, between Borrowers and Investors by way of Bonus. At the Annual Balance in March, 1870, there was a surplus Profit of £1835 16s. carried to the credit of this Fund. The distinctive features of this Society are:—

Economy in Management.
Encouragement to Borrowers.
Safe and Profitable Investment of Savings.
Periodical Division of Profits.

The Rules will be found to have been carefully compiled on the bases of similar Societies in the Home country (so far as applicable to the colony.)

The mode of taking securities for Advances to Members, while effectually securing the Society against the possibility of loss, is such as to entail the least possible expense to Borrowers. And provision has been made to enable Investors to borrow money on security of Shares of not less than two years standing.

Discount at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum will be allowed on payments made in advance for periods of not less than six months. Any Shareholder withdrawing is entitled to receive the full amount of Subscriptions and Profits standing to his credit in the books of the Society, on payment of 5s. per Share withdrawal fee.

Shares may be taken up at any time, Subscriptions to commence from date of entry; and the owners of realised Shares will be paid out in rotation, according to the dates of their respective entries.

This Society has now been established for the space of three years, during which time 2866 Shares have been taken up; and substantial securities for advances have been accepted to the extent of £19,892 10s.

THE THIRD NEW ZEALAND BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

SHARES: £60 EACH

enthly Payments, 5s. per Share; Redemption Fee, 10s. per Share; Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d per Share.

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BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

Secretary:
W. ORAM BALL.

OFFICE: Exchange Chambers, Princes street.

The amount of the Shares in this Society have been fixed at £60, the working of the Parent Society—the New Zealand Building and Mutual Investment Society—proving that this amount is more convenient to the Shareholders than the larger sum of £120; and another feature in the constitution worthy of note, is the provision made in the Rules for advancing upon the Shares of Members.

The Society is now in full operation, with a Share List representing about a Thousand Shares. The number of Shares to be issued being unlimited, new members may be enrolled at any time, upon terms more liberal than those offered by most Societies.

Prospectuses, Rules, Forms of Application, and all information, can be obtained on application to the local agents, or at the office of

W. ORAM BALL,
Secretary.

25th April, 1870.

SECOND
NEW ZEALAND BUILDING & MUTUAL INVESTMENT SOCIETY (1864).

ON THE TERMINATING PRINCIPLE.

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ALEXANDER WILLIS, Esq.

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Bankers:

THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

PROSPECTUS OF SECOND SERIES OF SHARES.

The profitable results of the working of this Society up to the present time have induced the belief that a new Society, formed upon the same basis would be a favourite both with investers and borrowers. After mature consideration it has been determined, in place of establishing a new Society, to offer to the public a New Series of Shares in the existing Society. The chief advantage sought by that method is *economy in working*. The interests of the two Series of Shares will be distinct, but they cannot clash, and by placing them under the management of one Committee, and dividing between them, in proper proportions, the expenses of the Society, a very decided saving will be secured, and the winding up of each Series of Shares accelerated.

The Shares in the Second Series will be of the same amount and in other respects similar to those of the First, viz. :—£60 Shares, with a Monthly Subscription of 5s.; Redemptions, 10s per month: present Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d. per Share. The business of the Society is conducted on the terminating principle: that is to say, when the monthly subscriptions, together with the profits, amount to £60 per Share, the Series will be wound up, those who have not borrowed will receive each £60 per Share in cash, and those who have had the £60 in advance will have their securities delivered up to them.

The method of making advances is by selling the moneys accumulated for investment by auction amongst the Shareholders at the monthly meetings, a system which precludes all possibility of favouritism in the consideration of applications for loans. Borrowers are allowed a full share of profits on paying off their mortgages. All further information that may be desired, with printed copies of the Rules under which the Society has been worked can be had at the Office of the Society, Temple Chambers, Princes street, Dunedin.

The following Statement of the Nett Profits made by the Society during the first five years of its existence ought to be the best recommendation of the New Series of Shares. Profits declared February, 1865, £1714 4s. 4d.; February, 1866, £1292 11s. 0d.; February, 1867, £604 3s. 9d.; February, 1868, £1339 19s. 7d.; February, 1862, 1936 6s. 4d., making a total of £6829 9s. 6d., equal to £12 2s. 10d. on each share (then £15 paid up) remaining in force at that date. The profits of the past year will shortly be declared, and are expected not to fall short of those of the previous year.

The first Subscriptions on the New Series of Shares were payable on Friday, the 25th February instant, and future Subscriptions on the last Friday of each month.

For Forms of Application for Shares apply to the undersigned, or to the Members of the Managing Committee.

J. S. WEBB,

Dunedin, February 8th, 1870. SECRETARY.

THE

OTAGO FREEHOLD LAND, BUILDING, AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY,

ESTABLISHED 1868.

Registered under the Provisions of the Building Societies' Act, 1866.

SHARES - - - - - - £120 EACH

Entrance Fee, 5s.; Subscription, 10s. per Share per Month; Redemption Fee, 20s. per Share per Month; Transfer Fee, 2s. 6d. per Share.

PRESIDENT:

THOMAS BIRCH, Esq., J.P., Mayor of Dunedin.

TRUSTEES:

GEORGE DUNCAN, Esq., Provincial Treasurer.
JAMES A. WALCOTT, Esq. (Bright Bros. and Co.)

DIRECTORS:

Messrs. BENJAMIN BAGLEY
G. H. CAMPBELL
JOHN MITCHELL
ALFRED H. BURTON
WILLIAM GREGG
Messrs. CHARLES REEVES
EDWARD M'GLASHAN
L. THONEMAN
ROBERT WILSON

SURVEYOR:

R. G. STRATTON.

SOLICITORS:

Messrs. KENYON AND MADDOCK.

BANKERS:

THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

SECRETARY:

FREDERICK H. EVANS, Princes Street, Dunedin.

It is not intended to limit the operations of this Society to Dunedin and Suburbs, but to extend them into the country, so that the Farmer or purchaser of Government Land (to be improved) may receive equal benefits with the freeholder in the City.

The Objects of this Society are—

1. To raise a fund by means of monthly subscriptions; to lend the same upon security to its members, and thus enable them to purchase or build a house, or become possessed of Freehold Property, Farms, &c.
2. To facilitate the accumulation of small sums of money, and to provide a safe and profitable mode for the investment of the Subscribed Capital of the Society; and
3. When the Monthly Subscriptions and Profits united amount to £120 per Share, the Society will be dissolved. The depositor or investing member will then receive his £120 per Share, and the borrower will receive his deeds.

The Society will be under the management of not less than nine Directors, appointed annually from the Shareholders, and no advance will be made from its funds except from the report of the Surveyor, or satisfactory evidence that the security offered is of ample value for the loan. Every facility will be given to the mortgagor, or borrowing member, at any time to sell or redeem his property on equitable terms.

Minors (with the consent of their parents or guardians) and females (not being married) may become investing members of the Society.

Investing Members can at any time sell their Shares, or they may withdraw from the Society, and receive the subscriptions paid, together with interest.

For further particulars apply to the Secretary,

FREDERICK H. EVANS.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated by the Act of the General Assembly.

CAPITAL.....£500,000 | RESERVE FUND.....£130,000

Directors:

THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq., PRESIDENT.

SAMUEL BROWNING, Esq. | JAS. T. MACKELVIE, Esq. | GEORGE B. OWEN, Esq.
C. J. STONE, Esq. | HON. C. J. TAYLOR, M.L.C. | JAMES WILLIAMSON, Esq.

AUDITORS :—W. C. WILSON, Esq., JAS. FARMER, Esq., M.G.A.

INSPECTOR :—DAVID L. MURDOCH, Esq.

BRANCH VISITING OFFICER :—JOHN MURRAY, Esq.

SOLICITORS :—MESSRS. WHITAKER AND RUSSELL.

Branches and Agencies:

HEAD OFFICE—AUCKLAND.

Ngaruawahia (or Newcastle) Province of Auckland.
New Plymouth, Province of Taranaki.
Napier, Province of Hawke's Bay.
Wellington, Province of Wellington.
Wanganui, Province of Wellington.
Nelson, Province of Nelson.
Picton, Province of Marlborough.
Blenheim, Province of Marlborough.
Christchurch, Province of Canterbury.
Lyttelton, Province of Canterbury.
Kaiapoi, Province of Canterbury.
Timaru, Province of Canterbury.
Dunedin, Province of Otago.
Oamaru, Province of Otago.
Tokomairiro (or Milton), Province of Otago.
Invercargill, Province of Southland.
Riverton, Province of Southland.

ON THE THAMES GOLDFIELDS.

Shortland | Grahamstown.

ON THE WEST COAST GOLDFIELDS.

Hokitika, County of Westland.....
Greymouth, County of Westland.....
} WM. C. ROBERTS, Manager.

Ross. Greenstone. Westport. Charlestown.

ON THE OTATO GOLDFIELDS.

Queenstown
Manuherikia (or Alexandra)
Mount Ida (or Naseby)
Wetherston
Lawrence
Waitahuna (or Havelock)
Waikouaiti (or West Hawkabury)
Arrow
Teviot (or Roxburgh)
Palmerston
Clutha Ferry (or Balclutha).

LONDON BOARD.

FALCONER LARKWORTHY, ESQ., MANAGING DIRECTOR.

WILLIAM S. GRAHAME, ESQ. | ROBERT PORTER, ESQ | WILLIAM BOUTCHER, ESQ.

OFFICE :—50, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C

AGENTS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

AGENCIES:

IN LIVERPOOL.
Bank of Liverpool.
National Bank of Liverpool.
IN MANCHESTER, &c.
Union Bank of Manchester.
IN GLOUCESTER, &c.
Gloucestershire Banking Company.
IN NORWICH, &c.
Messrs Gurney and Birkbeck's.
IN SCOTLAND.
National Bank of Scotland.
Bank of Scotland.
Commercial Bank of Scotland.
British Linen Company Bank.
City of Glasgow Bank.
North of Scotland Banking Company.
IN IRELAND.
National Bank.
Northern Banking Company.
Provincial Bank of Ireland.
Ulster Banking Company.
Hibernian Bank.
IN AUSTRALIA.
Oriental Bank Corporation.
Australian Joint Stock Bank.
Bank of Victoria.
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney.
Commercial Bank of Australia.
London Chartered Bank of Australia.
National Bank of Australasia.
Bank of Adelaide.
IN TASMANIA.
Bank of Van Diemen's Land.
IN INDIA, CEYLON, MAURITIUS, CHINA, AND SINGAPORE.
Oriental Bank Corporation.
IN NEW YORK.
Messrs Dabney Morgan and Co.
Bank of Montreal.
IN CANADA.
Bank of British North America.
Bank of Montreal.
IN CALIFORNIA.
Californian Banking Company.
Bank of British Columbia.
IN MEXICO, PERU, AND THE UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.
London Bank of Mexico and South America.
IN SOUTH AFRICA.
Standard Bank of British South Africa.

Bank of Australasia.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1835.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - - - - - - - £1,200,000.

GUARANTEE RESERVE FUND - - - - £200,000.

HEAD OFFICE, 4, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

SECRETARY.

WILLIAM MILLIKEN, ESQ.

SUPERINTENDENT.

DAVID C. M'ARTHUR, ESQ.

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

SCOTLAND: The Bank of Scotland.
The British Linen Co Bank.
IRELAND: The Provincial Bank of Ireland.
The Belfast Banking Company.

The Union Bank of Manchester.
The Leeds and County Bank.
The Gloucestershire Banking Company.
The Wilts and Dorset Banking Company.
Messrs. Gurney & Co., Norwich.
James B. Wilcocks, Esq., Plymouth.
Messrs. Batten, Carne & Carne, Penzance.

The Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris, Paris.
Messrs Platho & Wolff, Bankers, Berlin.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, NATAL, &c.:
The London and South African Bank.
INDIA, CHINA, MAURITIUS, JAVA, &c.:
The Agencies of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris.
The Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China.
The Agencies of the Bank of Rotterdam.
CALIFORNIA, &c.
The Bank of British Columbia.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

VICTORIA: Melbourne, Geelong, Belfast, Portland, Warnambool, Ballaarat, Creswick, Smythesdale, Talbot, Blackwood, Castlemaine, Sandhurst, Beechworth, Yacandandah, Bright, Sale, Walhalla

NEW SOUTH WALES: Sydney, Newcastle, Maitland

QUEENSLAND: Brisbane

TASMANIA: Hobart Town, Launceston

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Adelaide, Kooringa, Port Lincoln

NEW ZEALAND.

BRANCHES.	AGENCIES.
Wellington	Wanganui
Auckland	Shortland
Christchurch	Grahamstown
Hokitika	Greymouth.
	Staffordtown

DUNEDIN BRANCH HIGH STREET:

PRIDEAUX SELBY, Manager.

The Bank of Otago, Limited.

Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly, New Zealand.

CAPITAL - - £500,000.

WITH POWER TO INCREASE.

HEAD COLONIAL OFFICE:

PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.

WILLIAM JAMES MUDIE LARNACH, *Chief Colonial Manager.*

JOHN ROSS CUNDELL, *Sub-Manager and Accountant.*

ALEXANDER BARTLEMAN, *Sub-Inspector of Branches.*

London Office: 5 ADAM'S COURT, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

ALEXANDER GRACE, *Manager.*

BRANCHES IN NEW ZEALAND:

INVERCARGILL: JOHN DALGLIESH, Manager.
PORT CHALMERS: JAMES COOK, Acting-Manager.
CLUTHA FERRY: WILLIAM CHRISTIE, Manager.
QUEENSTOWN: JOHN DOUGLAS, Manager.
OAMARU: HENRY CLAPCOTT, Manager.
RIVERTON: JOHN BELL, Manager.
SWITZERS: THOMAS T. RITCHIE, Manager.
TAIERI: THOMAS KER, Acting-Manager.
PALMERSTON: WILLIAM. H. DAVIDSON, Acting-Manager.
TOKOMAIRIRO: ERNEST LITTLEJOHN, Manager.

CORRESPONDENTS:

MELBOURNE: The English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank.
SYDNEY: The English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank.
The Australian Joint Stock Bank.
NEWCASTLE: The Australian Joint Stock Bank.
ADELAIDE: The Bank of South Australia.
The English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank.
TASMANIA: The Commercial Bank of Van Dieman's Land.
SCOTLAND: The Bank of Scotland, and The British Linen Company.
IRELAND: The Royal Bank of Ireland, and the Belfast Banking Company.
MANCHESTER, &c.: The Manchester and Salford Bank and Branches.
BIRMINGHAM, &c.: Lloyd's Banking Company, Limited, and Branches.
SOUTH AMERICA: Hamsworthy and Co., Valparaiso.
NEW YORK: Messrs. Duncan Sherman and Co.
SAN FRANCISCO: Bank of British Columbia.

HIGHEST RATES OF INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS.

DRAFTS and LETTERS OF CREDIT granted, and every description of ordinary Banking business transacted.

Union Bank of Australia.

LONDON OFFICE - 1, BANK BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY, E.C.

Paid-up Capital - - - £1,250,000.
Reserve Fund - - - - £250,000.

LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS UNLIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1838.

AGENTS.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.
THE BANK OF LIVERPOOL, Liverpool.
THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.
THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER BANK.
THE DEVON AND CORNWALL BANKING COMPANY.
MESSRS. CAVE, BAILLIE, & CO., } Bristol.
MESSRS. SIR WILLIAM MILES, BART., & Co. }
MESSRS. GRANT, GILLMAN, & LONG, Portsmouth.
MESSRS. BOLITHOS, SONS, & CO., Penzance, &c
MESSRS. TWEEDY, WILLIAMS, & CO., Truro, &c.
MESSRS. J. M. WILLIAMS & CO., Redruth, &c.
MESSRS. DINGLEY & CO., Launceston, &c.
MESSRS. G. E. FOSTER & SONS, Cambridge, &c.
MESSRS. ROUND, GREEN, & CO., Colchester.
LLOYD'S BANKING COMPANY }
THE TOWN AND DISTRICT BANK } Birmingham.
THE BIRMINGHAM BANKING COMPANY }
MESSRS. BECKETT & CO., } Leeds.
MESSRS. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, BROWN, & CO. }
MESSRS. GARFIT, CLAYPON & CO., Boston, &c.
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNION BANK, Northampton, &c.
THE LANCASTER BANKING COMPANY, Lancaster. &c.
THE HALIFAX & HUDDERSFIELD UNION BANK, Halifax, &c.
MOORE & ROBINSON'S NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BANKING CO., Nottingham, &c.

THE BANK OF IRELAND.
THE ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND, Dublin.
THE NORTHERN BANKING COMPANY.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.
THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND.
THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.
THE CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA.
THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.
THE MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK.
THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING COMPANY.
THE BANK OF ROTTERDAM, Rotterdam, Batavia, &c.
THE STANDARD BANK OF BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.
THE LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK.
THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK.
THE LONDON AND SAN FRANCISCO BANK } San Francisco.
MESSRS. HELLMANN BROTHERS & CO. }
MESSRS. FREDERICK HUTH. GRUNING, & CO. Valparaiso.
MESSRS. RUSSELL & STURGIS, Manilla.

BRANCHES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Sydney.
QUEENSLAND.—Brisbane, Rockhampton.
VICTORIA.—Melbourne, Geelong, Portland, Ballarat, Sandhurst, Tarnagulla, Wood's Point, Smythesdale, Clunes, Daylesford, Alexandra, Godfrey's Creek, Pleasant Creek.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Adelaide, Port Adelaide.
TASMANIA.—Hobart Town, Launceston.
NEW ZEALAND.—Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Lyttelton, Christchurch, Dunedin, Napier, Invercargill, Hokitika, Timaru.
NEW ZEALAND GOLDFIELDS AGENCIES.—Greymouth, Waimea, Ross, Westport, Charlestow Grahamstown, Shortland.

A. JACKSON, Manager, Dunedin.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY

HEAD OFFICES: NORTH JOHN STREET, LIVERPOOL.

The Directors have now the pleasure of submitting the following statement, showing the financial position of the Company:—

The capital available for the purpose of meeting any unusual calamity happening to the assured is Two Millions sterling. The amount actually paid up is L288,495. This, with the accumulated funds in hand at this date exceeds L1,800,000.

For the satisfaction of the public the whole of the securities belonging to the Company are annually submitted to the careful scrutiny of two independent auditors, and the following is an extract from their report to the last annual meeting:—

"The whole of your books have been audited; every document, every account, every voucher, your bank book, and every security—all have been most carefully kept, and there is not one doubtful security in the whole."

A detailed list of the investments of the Company, as already published, may be obtained on application.

INDEPENDENT VALUATION OF LIFE LIABILITIES.

In continuation of the Quinquennial Investigation to the end of 1864, which resulted in a large division of Profits among the Policy-holders, the Directors have just obtained an Independent Report from Mr Samuel Brown, President of the Institute of Actuaries, on the results of the Life business for the four years ending 31st December, 1868, as follows:—

LIFE LIABILITIES AND ASSETS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1868.

	Number	Net Value of Liabilities.	Life Funds in hand.	Surplus.
		£	£	£
General Life Assurances less re-assurances	13,844	765,021	942,643	177,622
Children's Endowments	207	21,260	23,287	2,027
Annuities (Immediate and Deferred)	421	137,544	156,345	18,801
Total	14,471	923,825	1,122,275	198,450

The result shews a surplus in the Life branch available for the next Division of Profits in 1870 amounting to L198,450.

The valuation of the Life Policies has been made at 3 per cent. interest, and net premiums only have been taken, so that the loadings for future profits and expenses are entirely held in reserve, and not brought into the valuation.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES GRANTED BY THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FIRE.

Moderate Premiums.—Prompt and Liberal Settlement of Losses.—Loss and damage by explosion of Gas made good.

LIFE.

Unquestionable Security.—Large prticipation in Profits.—Exemption of Assured from liability of partnership.—No Charge for Policy Stamps, and no Entrance Money.—Fees to Medical Referees paid by the Company.—Forfeiture of Policy cannot take place from Unintentional Mis statement.

License for Voyage to and from Europe granted free of charge.

LIFE BONUSES

Hitherto among the Largest ever declared by any Office.—Resolution of Directors, 1867, to increase further the Proportion of Profits to Assured.—Profits divided every Five Years, to Policies then in existence Two entire years.

Agents at Dunedin: HENDERSON, LAW & Co.

PACIFIC

FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE CO.,

Incorporated by Act of Parliament (N.S.W. 26 Vic.)

CAPITAL, - - - - - £1,000,000.

(Of which Subscribed, £793,550.)

LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS UNLIMITED.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

In this Department all classes of Risk will be taken at the current rates.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Marine Insurance of every description effected.

The attention of Importers of Manufactured Goods from England is drawn to the following advantages and facilities this Company offers them. Loss or Average can be made payable at any of the Agencies or Offices of the Company. To avoid the trouble and expense of Marine Surveys on damaged Goods, when insured with particular average, it is only required that the Consignee should give Notice of Damage to the Company or their Agents, who will at once inspect the Goods and grant Certificate of Survey; or should the Consignee prefer retaining the Goods at an equitable valuation the Company will make such reasonable compensation for damage as may be mutually agreed between themselves and the assured.

The Policies issued by the Foreign Agents of the Company may be made payable either at the port of shipment, at the port or ports of destination in these Colonies, or at the London Office.

BRIGHT BROS. & CO.,

Agents.

BOND STREET, DUNEDIN.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

FIRE, LIFE, AND MARINE

INSURANCE COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE: COLLINS STREET WEST,

MELBOURNE.

Directors:

HON. JAMES GRAHAM, M.L.C., *Chairman*

HON. W. J. T. CLARKE, M.L.C., *Vice-Chairman.*

HON. ALEX. FRASER, M.L.C.

HON. EDWARD COHEN, M.P.

JAMES MACBAIN, ESQ., M.P.

THOMAS BUDDS PAYNE, ESQ., J.P.

E. L. MONTEFIORE, ESQ., *Secretary.*

FIRE, LIFE, and MARINE RISKS, taken at Lowest Current Rates.

W. & G. TURNBULL & CO.,

AGENTS FOR OTAGO.

THE

MONSTER CLOTHING HALL

IS NOW OPEN!

And Gentlemen will find every requisite of Dress suitable for all classes and all ages at the

MOST MODERATE CHARGES.

A VISIT OF INSPECTION IS REQUESTED

To prove that this Establishment has not gained its name for *cheapness, durability, and style*, undeserved.

COLONIAL MADE SUITS, - 42s. 6d.

SUPERIOR BLACK CLOTH SUITS, - - £3 3s.

BOYS' SUITS (GOOD STRONG TWEEDS), - 15s. 6d.

AT THE

MONSTER CLOTHING HALL,

PRINCES-ST., *Corner of Rattray-street,* } DUNEDIN.

S. ISAACS, - - - - - - - - PROPRIETOR.

SYDNEY JAMES,

(Offices of the Forbury Park Company Limited)

MANSE STREET, DUNEDIN.

ACCOUNTANT AND GENERAL AGENT,

RENTS AND DEBTS COLLECTED.

TRADESMEN'S BOOKS POSTED.

LETTERS WRITTEN, &c. &c.

By Appointment to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, and His Excellency the Governor and Volunteers.

F. BEISSELL,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN'S

HAIRDRESSER AND PERFUMER,

RATTRAY STREET, DUNEDIN.

Warm, Cold, and Shower Baths (reduced to One Shilling) always ready.

LADIES' HAIR DRESSED ANY STYLE OR FASHION.

A PRIVATE ROOM FOR LADIES.

J. BLAKELEY,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

SAIL, FLAG, TENT AND TARPAULIN MAKER,

Importer of American Duck, Cotton, Canvas, Navy Flax Canvas, American Drills, Calico, Twine, Lines, Rope, Horse Rugs, Tarpaulins, and Tents of every description.

ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

PRINCES STREET, CORNER OF WALKER STREET

DUNEDIN.

ON SALE—

Flax Machines, capable of dressing 25 cwt. fibre per week	Flour Mills	Saw Benches
Steam Engines	Chaff Cutters	Cheese Presses
	Belting	Smut Wire.
	Thrashing Machines	

Oil—Colza, Sperm, Castor, &c., &c.

J. MANNING. WALKER-ST.